



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3284

MONDAY 3 MARCH 1997

WEATHER: Sunshine and showers

(IR45p) 40p

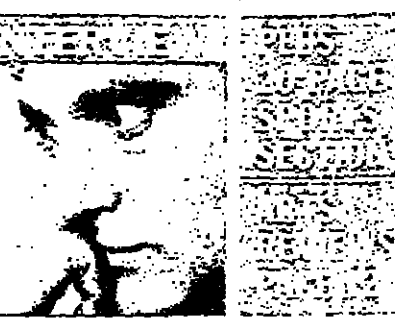
## INSIDE THE TABLOID

**MEDIA+** • Polly Toynbee on BBC lies  
• Rupert Murdoch's biggest deal yet  
• Journalists' worst nightmare — the taxman  
**PLUS:** 12 pages of media and marketing appointments



## THE DEBORAH ROSS

**Deepak Chopra**  
richest guru in  
the West  
THIS SECTION  
PAGE 13



## Euro gaffe wrecks Tory unity

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

John Major's government was back on the ropes again last night, after Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, smashed the fragile Cabinet agreement on the European single currency.

Ministers appear to be in a state of open mutiny against the Cabinet's January agreement on the single currency, that British participation is "very unlikely but not impossible" at the start of 1999.

Mr Dorrell, who received a public reprimand from the Prime Minister for saying last month that the Tories would abolish any Scottish Parliament set up by Labour, said yesterday: "We shan't be joining a single currency on January 1, 1999."

For good measure, he then added that it would not be "possible" to join because a Tory government would not enact the necessary legislation.

While Europe was not an issue in the Wirral South by-election, the voters were clearly contemptuous of a Cabinet that was disunited, and Mr Dorrell showed yesterday that the lesson has still not been learned in the highest reaches of government. One former minister told *The Independent* last night: "This smells of death wish."

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "The question is, has Stephen Dorrell made another gaffe or is he announcing an official change of government policy on the single currency?"

"He is the first Cabinet minister to say categorically that the Government will not join in 1999. Does John Major agree? Does Kenneth Clarke agree? Does Michael Heseltine agree? Did any of them know he was going to say this? ... Why did Michael Heseltine and Brian Mawhinney not say this when they were interviewed on tele-

vision earlier today? This smacks of disarray at the heart of government."

Mr Dorrell's true-shattering remarks came in a London Weekend Television programme with Jonathan Dimbleby — while Mr Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, was telling BBC television that the Cabinet was united. "It's preposterous to suggest that they're at each other's throats," Mr Heseltine told *The Record*.

Mr Major had won an opt-



BRITISH SCIENTIST  
CLONES ANOTHER  
FREAK

out on European economic and monetary union, "so people could make up their mind in the light of the facts", he said.

However, Mr Dorrell told Mr Dimbleby: "The Government's position, I would have thought, on the single currency is now as clear as you could ask for it to be. And that is: first of all, no single currency without a referendum; and, secondly, we shan't be joining a single currency on January 1, 1999, but we think that Britain ought to continue to participate in the discussion and take a decision subject to a referendum on Britain's interests alone."

When Mr Dimbleby offered the minister the chance to retract, Mr Dorrell went further, saying: "I said we shall not be joining on January 1, 1999, because we

shan't be putting the legislation through on the timescale that makes that possible."

Told that was the first time a Cabinet minister had said such a thing, that it would be impossible, Mr Dorrell came back for a third bite, saying: "I think you're right to say it is a vanishingly small possibility of us joining on January 1, 1999."

Last month, Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, provoked outrage from the Chancellor Kenneth Clarke and Mr Heseltine when he said that, on balance, the Government was "hostile" to the principle of a single currency. He was later forced to agree an early morning statement with the Chancellor, saying that ministers were hostile to a single currency based on "fudged" criteria for membership.

Last night, No 10 refused to get involved in a matter that clearly affected a breach of the rules of Cabinet collective responsibility. But Conservative Central Office issued a statement from Mr Dorrell saying: "The Government has made its position on joining the European single currency extremely clear. I entirely agree with the Government's position, and no words I used on the Dimbleby programme were intended to question it. We have not ruled out joining the single currency on the 1st of January 1999. We have said that we believe the likelihood of doing so is extremely small."

Mr Dorrell's latest gaffe completed a listful of Sunday setbacks for the Prime Minister: junior ministers threatened open defiance against the single currency; Sir Edward Heath again attacked government policy; former Tory Treasurer Lord MacAlpine accused Mr Major of being at the heart of the conspiracy to get rid of Baroness Thatcher in 1990; and Mr Heseltine dismissed John Redwood as a person of no consequence.

Politics, pages 4, 5



A garlanded Tony Blair during 25th anniversary celebrations of Europe's biggest-selling Gujarati-English newspaper, *Gujarat Samanacher*, yesterday. Photograph: Edward Sykes

## Immigrant rules will be eased by Labour

Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

Labour has promised it will liberalise some immigration regulations to make it easier for immigrants to bring members of their families into Britain.

The pledge, given to a pressure group by Jack Straw, the party's spokesman on home affairs, was accompanied by another commitment to lift the requirement on employers to carry out checks for illegal immigrants among their workers.

This immediately drew the accusation from the Tories that Labour was seeking the "bulk purchase" of ethnic minority votes at the general election.

Tim Kirkhope, Home Office minister responsible for immigration, said last night: "It is another cynical attempt to try to wrap up the ethnic minorities for the Labour vote. I find that distasteful."

He added: "In a sense, it is the bulk purchase of the ethnic vote. It is patronising and cynical in the extreme."

Mr Straw's commitments are contained in a pamphlet being distributed in marginal constituencies by the Confederation of Indian Organisations (UK), representing hundreds of thousands of Asians. The pamphlet will carry quotations from all three main parties about their immigration policies.

Although they say they are politically independent, the organisers believe the pamphlet will encourage Asians to vote Labour.

It quotes from a letter last month from Mr Straw: "The Government's primary pur-

pose rule is unfair and unnecessary. Labour will not operate it. It congests the system and puts couples in the unfair position of having to prove a negative. Under regulations a German citizen can bring a German spouse to the UK whilst a UK citizen may not be able to bring a non-EU spouse into the UK."

"Immigration rules introduced by Labour in the 1970s already require couples to show that a marriage is genuine and will not be a financial burden on the taxpayer if a spouse is entering the UK from outside the EU."

Mr Straw's statement is the latest attempt by the parties to woo the Asian vote. John Major spent part of the Christmas recess visiting the Indian sub-continent which was seen as a signal to Asian voters. He has also recently guaranteed citizenship to around 5,000 stateless Asians in Hong Kong.

Labour's leadership also has been active in building relationships with Asian voters, and Asian businessmen. A poll last week suggested that 70 per cent would vote Labour, a finding that the Tories dispute.

Tara Mukherjee, president of the Confederation, said: "We are politically non-aligned but we think the commitments given by Mr Straw are very important. We cannot marry whom we like. We cannot bring in our children or our parents as of right."

"If my own son wishes to marry a girl in Calcutta, he has to convince the immigration authorities that it is a genuine marriage. What kind of human rights is that?"

## Now monkeys get the cloning treatment

Rupert Cornwell  
Washington  
Charles Arthur  
Science Editor

US scientists were yesterday reported to have succeeded in cloning two monkeys from embryos, bringing a step closer to the possibility of cloning humans.

The achievement, which according to the *Washington Post* was carried out last August, differs from the celebrated cloning of Dolly the sheep in that the monkeys were created from

embryos, rather than an adult animal. This means that the cloned monkeys are not genetically identical to an existing animal — one of the most controversial aspects of the experiment carried out by Professor Ian Wilmut and his colleagues in Scotland.

However the technique was in other respects broadly similar. First, scientists at the Primate Research Center in Beaverton, Oregon, created monkey embryos by standard *in vitro* fertilisation. Once the em-

bryos had divided into eight cells, they took a set of chromosomes from each embryo and inserted them into a fresh egg cell whose DNA had been removed.

Of these, nine developed into standard embryos and were implanted into female monkeys, three of whom became pregnant. One foetus died, but the other two survived and are said to be perfectly normal.

The pair, created by using the eggs and sperm of the same parents, are siblings, but they are

not genetically identical.

However, according to scientists there is no reason why identical monkeys could not be created from different cells of the same embryo, nor why clones of living monkeys could not be achieved, as in the case of Dolly the sheep. At the very least, it is another pointer that human cloning, in scientific terms, is feasible.

The most practical consequences however could be for drug research and development, carried out on "made-to-

measure" colonies of animals, created with specific and identical characteristics. This could lead to new techniques to help infertile women, said Dr Don Wolf, head of the Oregon research team.

Professor Wilmut, who led the team at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh and PPL Therapeutics to produce Dolly, said the Oregon achievement was two steps away from cloning adult monkeys.

"At the eight-cell stage all the cells are much the same. It's a

necessary step but it's well back." The next step would be to clone later-stage embryos — as the Roslin and PPL team did in 1995, when they took nine-day-old embryos and put the DNA from individual cells into emptied egg cells. That produced two sheep, Morag and Megan, which are now 18 months old.

"Of course, there's nothing to stop the American scientists from trying to produce monkey versions of Morag and Megan tomorrow," said Professor Wilmut.

## Bad blood as 'Dracula' plays Pakistan's hero

David Lister  
Karachi



Christopher Lee: Pakistanis have cast him as a villain

Christopher Lee, the veteran horror-film actor, arrived in Karachi yesterday to find an orchestrated furor over the decision to cast him as Pakistan's revered national hero Jinnah.

Shooting on the £3m film about the man who founded Pakistan 50 years ago begins today in Karachi. But Lee and the rest of the cast arrived to find they were the targets of a vitriolic and bitter campaign.

The *News*, Pakistan's biggest English-language paper, carried a front-page condemnation of the film, provocatively accompanied by a picture of Lee with fanged teeth playing Dracula in an old film.

The article headed "Is this man fit to play Jinnah?" said: "Pakistanis are furious about the casting of Christopher Lee ... his only claims to fame are his fangs ... [His] selection will allow the enemies of Pakistan to have a field day. They are bound to say that the casting was perfect because Jinnah is an arch villain in their eyes — a veritable blood sucker." The paper called on the Pakistani govern-

ment to order the immediate suspension of shooting.

The producers, London-based Petra Films, tried to turn the controversy into farce by pointing out that the unsigned attack was written by a former editor of the *News* who had auditioned for the part himself.

But they were alarmed enough to call a hastily convened press conference in Karachi, chaired by the Cambridge don, Akbar Ahmed, who is the executive producer and guiding spirit behind the film. He was flanked by historians and former government minis-

ters brought out to endorse the project.

He pleaded with a hostile media: "August is the 50th anniversary of the founding of Pakistan. This is your major project. It will show the younger generation what drove the Muslims of undivided India into following Mr Jinnah ... this has to succeed. At the back of our mind is the film *Gandhi*. It had a major impact on the world ... Please be kind to the foreigners ... make them feel welcome."

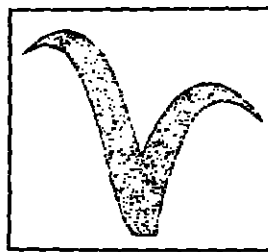
The film also stars James Fox and Patricia Hodge as Lord and Lady Mountbatten.

## QUICKLY

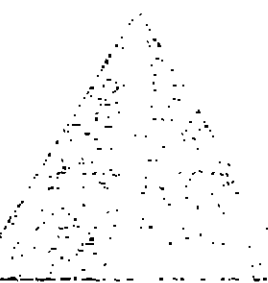
**Rogues' gallery**  
Millions of photographs of criminals and suspects are set to be placed on a national computer system being developed by the police in a break-through in crime fighting. Page 6

**Broadmoor scare**  
Claims that security at Broadmoor special hospital is at "breaking-point" have prompted a high-level review. Page 3

**Home wreckers**  
A scheme to demolish 600 council homes in Hull and replace them largely with homes for sale may be investigated by the district auditor. Page 8



Suitable for vegetarians.



Unsuitable for big girls' blouses.



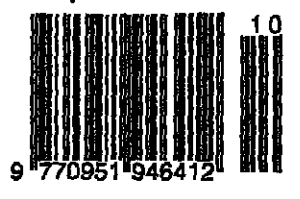
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## news

## significant shorts

## £1.5m cash bag stolen from Heathrow compound

A bag containing \$2.5m (£1.5m) cash has been stolen at Heathrow Airport as it was being moved from New York to Moscow. The theft took place despite high security at the British Airways cargo compound where the money was being transferred between aircraft. It came to light when a security guard noticed that seals on the transit container were broken. But another three bags containing a further \$7.5 million were left untouched.

Police questioned all staff at the compound questioned, but there were no arrests. However, Scotland Yard believes that as the theft took place "air-side" where the public cannot go, it is likely that the thief had inside information. The money is understood to have come from the Republic National Bank of New York to the Tokyo Bank in Moscow.

Louis Jury and Phil Reeves

## Passengers hurt in coach crash

Forty-one passengers were hurt, one seriously, when a coach packed with young partygoers returning from a 21st birthday celebration veered off an isolated road and plunged into a 12ft ditch early yesterday. Eight people were detained in hospital following the accident on the A1121 near Boston in Lincolnshire, at about 4am. Three people trapped in the wreckage had to be cut free by firemen.

Police said high winds, which whipped across The Fens, may have played a part in the crash. Inspector Kevin Hilton said most of the passengers were sleeping when the crash occurred. The coach, which had 42 passengers – all in their teens or early 20s – was returning from a nightclub in Nottingham. The 15-year-old vehicle, did not have seat belts.

## Former Tory GLC chief dies

Sir Horace Cutler, the former leader of the Greater London Council (right), died yesterday, at the age of 85. He was the last Conservative leader of the GLC, holding the position from 1977 to 1981, before the Thatcher administration abolished the then Labour-run council in 1986. A millionaire businessman, Sir Horace had been involved in local politics since becoming a councillor on Haringey Borough Council in north-west London in 1952, and in 1970 made an unsuccessful attempt to become a Member of Parliament.



## Hospitals equipment alert

An official alert is set to be issued to hospitals this week after the discovery of faulty counterfeit surgical equipment, the Department of Health said yesterday. The news comes after Warwickshire trading standards officers, acting on a tip-off, seized 150 medical tubing kits. But similar items have already found their way into several hospitals. Doctors told the government's Medical Devices Agency (MDA), the organisation governing the standard of hospital medical equipment, that the special tubing, used in liver and brain ultrasound surgery, overheated while in use.

Five hospitals across Britain which received fake tubing kits – packaged to look identical to genuine kits produced by a German manufacturer – have stopped using them. The kits have been sent to the MDA for investigation. A Department of Health spokesman said the counterfeit tubing "seems to be a very small problem", but added: "Once the MDA have investigated they will put out a hazard notice some time this week. What was very worrying was that the equipment being used was getting rather hot."

## Volunteers go on Ratty's trail

Volunteers are wanted to get hot on the trail of Ratty – the elusive and threatened water vole of Gloucestershire's wetlands and waterways. Teams of volunteers will soon be searching the countryside in a water vole survey aimed at developing an action plan to help save the shy creature from extinction.

About 150 kilometres of rivers, streams and canals are scheduled for investigation. The survey – a joint venture with the county's Wildlife Trust – is to be formally launched at Slimbridge on Wednesday. Training sessions for volunteer vole surveyors are to take place within the next few weeks at the national headquarters of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire.

## Police probe Oasis theft claim

The rock band Oasis have called in the police to investigate an attempt to sell a pirate copy of tracks from their next album to a national newspaper, according to a band spokesman. The claim comes as work continues on the third album – about which the band have been highly secretive – at a studio in Hampstead, north-west London.

A Scotland Yard spokeswoman said: "Police at Hampstead have received an allegation of theft from business premises at Hampstead. 'Inquiries are still at an early stage. Hampstead CID are handling it and we are not discussing it any further."

## Easy listening out on the road

Hits from the Seventies are helping drivers to relax behind the wheel, says a survey out today. John Denver's 1973 hit "Country Road" was voted the best song for driving in a poll of almost 700 motorists, compiled by the Autoglass company. The Top Ten of in-car hits was dominated by other 1970s favourites such as Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody", the Eagles' "Hotel California" and Don MacLean's "American Pie". The only 1990s sound to make a showing was Oasis's "Roll With It", which came seventh. The survey asked drivers whether music in the car made them better or worse motorists. Nearly two-thirds said music calmed them down, while one in five said it made them more considerate.

## Twenty share Lottery jackpot

Twenty tickets shared Saturday night's National Lottery jackpot of £8.1m, winning £48,500 each. They won with the numbers 33, 23, 49, 8, 2, 42. The bonus ball was 14.

## THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria ..... \$400 ..... \$5.00  
Belgium ..... \$980 ..... \$4.50  
Canada ..... \$300 ..... \$4.50  
Cyprus ..... \$13.20 ..... \$3.00  
Denmark ..... \$118 ..... \$3.00  
France ..... \$45 ..... \$3.00  
Germany ..... \$114 ..... \$3.00  
Greece ..... \$114 ..... \$3.00  
Italy ..... \$114 ..... \$3.00  
Japan ..... \$114 ..... \$3.00  
Netherlands ..... \$114 ..... \$3.00  
New Zealand ..... \$114 ..... \$3.00  
Norway ..... \$114 ..... \$3.00  
Portugal ..... \$114 ..... \$3.00  
Spain ..... \$114 ..... \$3.00  
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## people



Star performance: Kristin Scott Thomas, star of the Oscar-nominated film, *The English Patient*, which received its premiere in Mayfair, London, last night. Also present was Ralph Fiennes, who plays the title role in the wartime romance (Photograph: Fred Prouser)

## Hippie trail clue in mystery of the missing rock star

The mystery surrounding the disappearance of the rock star Richey Edwards took a new twist yesterday when a college lecturer claimed to have spotted the former Manic Street Preachers guitarist in a hippie market in Goa.

Vyvyann Morris, 48, believes a man he saw in the village of Anjuna may have been the missing musician, who vanished two years ago.

The reported sighting will fuel fading hopes that Edwards, who had been fighting depression, anorexia and alcoholism, may still be alive.

It comes just six days after his former group, which has enjoyed worldwide success since his disappearance, won best band and best album in the Brit Awards.

Edwards, then 28, was reported missing in February 1995 after he failed to join his band colleagues for a flight to America where they were due to give television interviews. His passport and credit cards were found in his flat in Cardiff and, two weeks later, his silver Vauxhall Cavalier was found at Aust service station, next to the M4. Its car park overlooks the Severn Bridge and is a favourite spot for suicides.

But his body has not been found, prompting claims by many of his fans that he may not have taken his life. Mr Morris, a media studies lecturer at Neath College in South Wales, was on holiday in India in November when he made the alleged sighting.

"I was sitting having a coke and I thought to myself: 'I know that guy'. He was a little worse for wear. His hair was a lot longer, but he looked quite well and had quite a sun tan," said Mr Morris. "I asked a bloke who was sitting nearby and he said: 'That's Rick'. He said he had come over to Goa about 18 months earlier."

But he kept silent about the sighting until news of it reached a reporter with a Welsh Sunday newspaper.

"It didn't concern me very much. The only thing I thought about was that, if it wasn't him, it would upset his parents," said Mr Morris.

Edwards' parents, who live in Blackwood, Gwent, are said to share his fans' optimism and have clung to sporadic sightings of their son, which have been reported in Germany, New York, Bedfordshire and Worcestershire. Their hopes will be further raised by the latest sighting and Mr Morris's willingness to talk to police officers monitoring the rock star's disappearance.

However, the Metropolitan police, which is responsible for the case as Edwards had been staying at a west London hotel before he disappeared, gave the alleged sighting a guarded response.

A spokesman said: "He's still a missing person and we will look at any new information. We will follow it up, whether it's face to face or with a phone call. But unless there's some tangible evidence, there's nothing we can do."

Danny Groom

## Man cleared of killing given legal aid to sue police

A man cleared last year of murdering a 30-year-old woman revealed yesterday that he has been granted legal aid to sue the police for wrongful arrest and prosecution.

Mark Weston, 21, has been informed by the Legal Aid board that he can go ahead with plans to sue the Chief Constable of Thames Valley police after he was acquitted in December last year of killing Vikki Thompson.

She died in hospital six days after she was bludgeoned with a stone as she walked her dog on a Cotswold path close to her home in Ascot-under-Wychwood, near Oxford, in August 1995.

Mr Weston, a former odd-job man, was arrested and charged with her murder four months later.

He said yesterday: "This means I can sue the police for wrongful arrest and prosecution. Of course I want compensation, but all I really want is a written apology from Thames Valley police admitting they were wrong. They haven't even bothered with that. I haven't heard anything from them at all."

Mr Weston, who lived near Mrs Thompson, her husband Jonathan and their two children aged eight and five, spent 10 months in jail awaiting trial and was acquitted at Oxford Crown Court in December.

The jury took just 50 minutes to clear him after trial which had heard that footprints around the



Mark Weston: Wants apology

murder scene did not match his.

Another key witness who claimed to have seen him at the scene admitted that it might not have been Mr Weston.

Mr Weston, described in court as a loner, still lives in Ascot-under-Wychwood with his parents.

Mr Weston said: "I used to do odd jobs around the village but people have stopped asking me now and I can't get any work. Some people have supported me but there are still whispers and gossip going about – I know some people still think I did it."

"I knew Mrs Thompson and saw her around, but I didn't see her on that day and I didn't murder her. I'm not that sort of person."

## Keegan aims for bestseller league

Kevin Keegan has signed a triple book deal worth £500,000 just weeks after quitting his job as manager of Newcastle manager. He aims to outsell Kenny Dalglish who took over from him at St James's Park.

The Dalglish autobiography sold 200,000 copies but Keegan's publisher Little Brown expect him to do even better.

Alan Sampson, who is overseeing the deal for Little Brown, said there was "a feeding frenzy" among publishers in the rush to sign Keegan.

Sporting autobiographies of major stars sell like hot cakes. The cricketer Ian Botham was one of the biggest sellers of 1994 with his autobiography and *My Championship Year* by the motor racing star Damon Hill sold 140,000 copies at £25 each.

Keegan, the former England captain with 63 international caps, two European Footballer of the Year trophies and his years in the hot seat at Newcastle United, has a lot to write about.

The autobiography is expected to be published in October, followed by a book of humorous reminiscences and another on coaching.

Sampson told the publishing industry paper *The Bookseller* that he had been tracking Keegan for three years: "But a big name isn't enough – mediocre works quickly fall by the wayside."

## briefing

## POVERTY

## CSA 'forcing cuts in benefit' for poorest single parents

The Child Support Agency is hurting the poorest children by using punitive measures against parents, reducing their income support by up to 25 per cent, according to the Child Poverty Action Group.

Three in four parents left to care on their own for children are on income support. In many cases such parents are unwilling to pursue the absent parent, as the CSA demands, because to do so would "risk harm or undue distress" to them or their child. If they are unable to convince a child-support officer that they are at risk in this way, they face a financial penalty which lasts for at least three years and which means a £20 reduction in income support per week. For a lone parent over 25 with a child under 11 this means a reduction in support from £81.80 to £62.14 at 1997/8 rates.

But some parents suffer this cut rather than risk the violence or break-up of an amicable arrangement that may result from pursuing the absent parent.

Sally Wither, director of CPAG, said parents left to care for children on benefits should not be made to co-operate with the CSA. However, a spokesman for the Department of Social Security dismissed the report as "one-sided and biased".

□ *Child Support: Issues of the Future* – available from CPAG Ltd, 125 Bath Street, London EC1V 9PY at £5.95. Glenda Cooper

## DRUGS

## Alcopops worsen abuse by young

Fruit-flavoured "alcopops" have encouraged young drinkers to consume relatively high levels of alcohol without appreciating its strength, school inspectors claim today.

A study of drug-education provided by youth services reveals that the misuse of drugs, including alcohol, is not an isolated phenomenon, but is becoming "a way of life".

Younger drinkers have been attracted to alcoholic fruit juices and lemonades, many of which have innocuous-sounding labels such as "Vanilla" and "Blackcurrent" but have an alcohol content as high as 12 per cent, says the report from the schools watchdog, the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted).

One 16-year-old girl was found on a beach unconscious after drinking two bottles of an alcopop.

The report says alcohol is the most frequently misused drug among teenagers, but reveals cannabis is also "commonly used by a large proportion of young people", in some cases to "wind down" after taking other drugs such as amphetamines.

Ecstasy and LSD are popular, though in Southwark in south London some youngsters said ecstasy was seen as "old fashioned" by those who had moved on to crack and heroin.

Lucy Ward

## EMPLOYMENT

## Low-paid made to take two jobs

The number of people with two jobs has jumped by 37 per cent – from 917,000 to 1,263,000 – since the last election, according to analysis of official figures by the House of Commons library.

The figures, supplied to Ian McCartney, Labour's chief employment spokesman, also show that almost 2 million workers earn less than £3 an hour and 342,000 less than £1.50 an hour. Mr McCartney argues that low wages force people to take second jobs.

Labour has also claimed that two-thirds of Britain's 1.8 million unemployed have no qualifications. Stephen Byers, the party's employment spokesman, said the statistics showed the clear relationship between lack of educational qualifications and the likelihood of being jobless.

Nationally, 1.2 million without qualifications are unemployed. Men aged 18-24 with no qualifications have only a 50-50 chance nationally of being in work, and only a one-third chance in London. In the North, 65 per cent of unqualified men over 50 are without work.

Barrie Clement and Lucy Ward

## HEALTH

## Brotherly love aids girls' allergies

Women who have brothers stand less chance of developing allergies to cats, dust or grass – and the more brothers they have the less chance they have of being allergic, a report said yesterday.

The study by researchers in Bristol and London showed that 26 per cent of women without brothers were allergic to one or more of these factors. But the figure fell to 23 per cent for women with one brother, 20 per cent for those with two brothers, and just 17 per cent for those with three brothers.

The statistics were gleaned from more than 11,000 pregnant women taking part in the Children of the 90s project at Bristol University.

Professor Jean Golding, of the university's Institute of Child Health, said: "We believe that boys may bring more infection into the home than girls and that early infection may protect against allergen sensitivity," she said.

## INDUSTRY

## Boardroom revolt against tribunals

The Government is today urged to simplify the industrial tribunal system after complaints from business leaders that the number of cases has become excessive.

The Institute of Directors (IoD) said there should be more emphasis on settling disputes in-house or voluntarily and criticised the "nothing-to-lose, give-it-a-go" mentality.

The institute said its members believed small employers in particular were under pressure to settle industrial-tribunal cases out of court to avoid risks to their business, even when they felt they had a good case.

Some directors complained it was becoming too easy for workers to bring "doty" cases. One member wanted to abolish tribunals.

The IoD said the number of tribunal claims passed 100,000 last year for the first time, a huge rise on the 38,500 cases a decade ago.

"It is becoming routine for people resigning or being sacked to turn to tribunal proceedings," said its report.

"The increasingly litigious nature of our society and the sensational media treatment of cases have encouraged a culture of 'give it a go, there is nothing to lose' among applicants."

Ruth Lea, head of policy at the IoD, said: "The burden of employment regulations is now excessive for many employers and there is considerable concern about the rapid increase in the number of applications to tribunals."



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## RADIO 3. BREAKING NEW SOUND BARRIERS.

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## Malt whisky row leaves nasty taste in the mouth

Steve Boggan

David Robertson untied the knot in his plastic carrier bag and took out some of the tools of his trade – spice bottles of cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves, aromatherapy vials of lemon and orange, and a crumpled paper bag full of toffee.

On other days there might be bananas and prunes, vanilla and apricots while he speaks lovingly of woody flavours, of pear drops and fruit. But Mr Robertson is not tasting wines to discern their flavours. He isn't tasting anything, because the drink he dissects by its myriad aromas is the Macallan single malt whisky, and he does it all with his nose.

Mr Robertson is the Macallan's chief noser at its Speyside distillery in the Highland village of Craigellachie. It is his job to ensure that the inconsistencies inherent in taking water, barley and yeast, in distilling them and laying them down for years in oak sherry casks are wiped out. He uses the contents of his trusty carrier bag to identify smells and to change, mix and marry the contents of the barrels to make the perfect Macallan.

But last week Mr Robertson was at the centre of an unseemly row. He rose to his position in August at the age of 28 following a hostile takeover of the Macallan distillery in a joint £180m bid by Highland Distilleries and the Japanese liquor company Suntory.

His predecessor, Frank Newlands, 55, was squeezed out in the boardroom coup along with three other nosers who last week told the *Wall Street Journal* that they feared for the future flavour of the Macallan.

Under the headline, "Noses Out of Joint", the other nosers expressed fears that the Macallan might suffer in Highland Distilleries' drive to push up exports – already at 130,000

cases a year – and because of Mr Robertson's relative inexperience. He had been, said the newspaper, "steeped in the Macallan tradition for under three years", while Mr Newlands had been steeped in it for 22.

One former executive told *The Independent* that four members of a six-man nosing panel had been made redundant. "You can't tell me that won't have some effect," he said.

But Mr Robertson and Peter Fairlie, the new sales director, disagree. "Only one of the main panel of four was made redundant – Frank Newlands," said Mr Fairlie. "The others were good nosers but they were regarded as occasional nosers, not what we would consider the hardcore of four regulars who we still use."

"It is unfair to criticise David because of his age. He has an exceptional talent and is very well respected in the industry."

Mr Robertson, a man liked even by those he replaced, has been embarrassed by the fuss.

"My father was assistant manager at the Brackla Distillery when I was born and I grew up on distilleries as my father moved around," he said. By the time he went to Edinburgh to study for a degree in brewing and distillery his talent for nosing had already been spotted.

"I don't get hurt by what has been said, but I do get a wee bit embarrassed about the impression that I'm just out of my nappies. Who's to say that a younger nose isn't better, fresher, more receptive?"

"What has happened has been unfortunate, but all those involved have always had the same interests at heart – to make the finest possible Macallan – and we all know that we're only here for a while. Each one of us will always have to hand on the torch to the next generation."



Nasal master: David Robertson assessing the Macallan single malt whisky

Photograph: John Voss

## Security review ordered at Broadmoor

Matthew Brace

A high-level management review at Broadmoor special hospital in Berkshire will be announced today by Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, to examine allegations that security is at "breaking point".

The review was prompted by a Prison Officers' Association report which criticised security and staffing levels at Broadmoor, highlighting intimidation of staff by patients, and the lack of experienced nurses.

The POA's warnings came after allegations that a seven-year-old girl visiting the hospital had been assaulted by a sex offender housed there, and that pornographic videos had been found in the possession of a patient.

The Broadmoor review follows an inquiry launched by Mr Dorrell at Ashworth hospital in Merseyside last month over allegations that a paedophile ring was operating there.

The examination of the Berkshire hospital will be undertaken by the Oxford and Anglia Health Authority, which will report back by the end of the month. It will focus on the controversial Patients' Council, a consultation body run by the patients which deals with conditions and complaints against staff.

Each ward of 20 to 30 patients elects one member to the council, which meets every week. Its previous requests for patients to be allowed access to the hospital's internal telephone system and to sit in on the interview of a coordinator for the council have both been turned down and the POA believes the Patients' Council threatens stability in the hospital.

Welcoming the review, the Association's general secretary, David

Evans, said: "We can understand management wanting to hear the views of patients, but I believe they have gone over the top with the Patients' Council. It appears that, on several occasions, patients have had more say in the running of the hospital than staff."

Mr Dorrell, who will announce the review to the House of Commons today, told BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend* yesterday that "serious concerns" had been raised. "The management believe they have been answered but I think given proper public concern about these hospitals, it's important that there is an external evaluation and that is what I am in the process of providing," he said.

On Saturday, Mr Dorrell said he would not tolerate "any misguided liberalism in this institution".

Broadmoor Hospital refused to comment yesterday on the allegations or on the Health Secretary's review.

However, in an earlier statement, the hospital confirmed that the Patients' Council had been temporarily suspended for two weeks up until its most recent meeting last Thursday, but the suspension had now been lifted.

A hospital spokesman said the role of the Patients' Council had been exaggerated and most discussions centred around issues such as the patients' shop. "It does not have any powers. It is merely a forum set up in voice patient views," he said.

"The Council represents all patients in order to ensure the collective interests of patients are addressed and minority views are respected."

"The hospital uses it as a form of consultation. But it does not have the power or the ability to take decisions relating to the hospital's management or the way it is run," he added.

## A model comeback – after 28 years and 10 children

Richard Smith

It is hard to imagine a middle-aged Naomi Campbell returning to the catwalk after bringing up a large family. However a 45-year-old Worcester woman has done exactly that, winning a major modelling contract after having 10 children.

Annette Edwards, whose last child, a son, was born only 19 months ago, will appear in advertisements for Nivea Visage face cream in a special Mother's Day campaign.

Mrs Edwards, who weighs 9st 2lbs, claims she has the same 36-24-37 figure she boasted when she began her modelling career with a Birmingham agency when she was 15.

She gave up work when she married at the age of 17. In the next nine years she had six children.

"I've gone back to modelling because at the end of the day I love performing in front of the camera," Mrs Edwards said.

"I did worry if it was time to stop when I hit 40 but I've always kept my shape and decided to go for it."

"I've won beauty contests and lovely legs competitions against people half my age and it still gives me a buzz."

"I was curious to see whether I could still do it and determination got me there."

"It's been hard and I have been rushed off my feet but I think that has helped me to keep my figure."

Mrs Edwards' past modelling assignments include advertising Coca Cola soft drinks and Adidas sportswear.

Next month, following in the steps of supermodels like Elle



Supermom: Mother-of-10 Annette Edwards, 45, has won a major modelling contract after 28 years off the catwalk

Macpherson and Cindy Crawford, Mrs Edwards is to record her own fitness video, although the work for Nivea is likely to spark the most lucrative phase of her career.

She says she is happy that her big break did not come sooner in her career.

"I have absolutely no regrets about missing out on so many years' modelling because of the

"It just happened and I love the different personalities of each one. They are all very proud of me."

"I breast fed all my children and used to take the little ones on modelling shoots."

"The thing that amazes most people is that I still don't have any stretch marks. But I just have a normal healthy diet, with no chocolates, cake or biscuits, and I spend 20 minutes every day doing some gentle exercise. I actually spend very little time on myself."

"You get some people in modelling who are a bit jealous or bitchy – they are usually people who have had kids."

"Of the younger models I think Naomi Campbell is the top because she just looks so elegant. I also think Jerry Hall is fantastic – she is so glamorous."

Mrs Edwards' husband, Rob, 39, is her manager.

"Basically, she is just stunning. Heads always turn when Annette walks into a room and even the advertising agency found it hard to believe she was the mother of 10 children," Mr Edwards said.

"Sometimes we have offered to produce their birth certificates as proof."

"She just has this air about her – and her style and confidence give Annette such an edge over younger models."

Jo Edwards, Nivea Visage product manager, said: "It is not about being the most glamorous, glitzy person on earth."

"Annette is a real person who is very attractive."

"For a 45-year-old woman to have had 10 kids and maintained her looks is quite phenomenal."

children – I would do it all again," Mrs Edwards said.

"I wouldn't like anyone else changing my babies' nappies and I still do this washing up. I just do everything a normal housewife would do," she said.

"I was an only child and I just think that's very sad. It's a lonely life and I decided I would not have a child on its own – although I didn't plan to have 10."

## Cybersurfers make their point

Barrie Clement

The Internet community has thrown up some novel ideas for consideration by the next government.

Among the "practical suggestions" by cybersurfers for consideration by the next Cabinet are that it should dissolve Parliament to save money, dye cigarette smoke fluorescent green to alert people to passive smoking, and keep the pubs open all night.

Perhaps the most macabre idea was that all car steering wheels should be fitted with a metal spike aimed at the driver's

heart to encourage safe motoring.

The proposals were solicited by Alec Reed, chairman of employment agency Reed Personnel Services, who believes passionately that people and their ideas make a difference. Ideas placed in Reed's "1,000 Ideas" Internet Web site were supplemented with mailings to more than 38,000 clients.

Transport in general, and motorists in particular, seemed to loom large in people's concerns. One plan was that banned drivers should be allowed a moped licence for the

second half of their sentence so that they could experience the vulnerability felt by other road users. The health police made several contributions including the suggestion that unhealthy food should be the subject of tax in the same way as tobacco and alcohol.

A call is made to bring back grocery and butcher shops. One nethead declared: "People are getting bored with shopping in big supermarkets which are bending over backwards to squeeze the last penny out of shoppers with their marketing tricks."

A scheme to place martial

arts on the National Curriculum might be less than popular with teachers in schools with more than their fair share of unruly pupils.

Mr Reed said: "The ideas we have received show that people want trouble-free travel, honest MPs, taxation which benefits people and an education which gives real life skills, all in an environmentally friendly world."

The suggestion least likely to be taken up by the parties is that MPs should be breathalysed before being allowed to vote in the Commons. An empty chamber could be a touch embarrassing.

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## politics

## McAlpine tells how Major put bite on Thatcher

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

John Major is accused of being at the heart of the 1990 conspiracy to bring down Margaret Thatcher. In a book by the former Tory treasurer Lord McAlpine.

In an extract from *Once a Jolly Begman*, to be published this month by Orion, Baroness Thatcher's confidant said: "What we realise now, but didn't realise at the time of the

leadership election, is that John Major was involved with people who had made plans for him to be leader of the Conservative Party. John Major was often at the heart of the conspiracy to bring down Margaret Thatcher. In a book by the former Tory treasurer Lord McAlpine.

ple: she was merely trying to humiliate Geoffrey Howe, who was impatient for his turn." But Lord McAlpine suggested Sir Geoffrey was not the only Cabinet member to harbour such ambition. "The mathematics of it all were so easy: if she had won a fourth election, it would have been at least another seven years before any of them had a turn at being prime minister."

Lord McAlpine, who has since switched from the Con-

servatives to the Referendum Party, told of efforts by Lady Thatcher's allies to rally support after the first-round leadership ballot, in which she fell two votes short of the required majority. "It was a nasty moment for John Major when Margaret Thatcher put his hand to the fire by asking him to second her on the second ballot. His hesitation of a few moments on the telephone when asked that question speaks more than a thousand words."

But that was not the only attempt made to secure Mr Major's backing for her fightback. After a lunch attended by Conrad Black, owner of the *Daily Telegraph*, and Sir David English, then editor of the *Daily Mail*, public-relations adviser Tim Bell was deputed to phone Mr Major.

Norma Major told him that Mr Major's mouth was too sore for him to speak, following an operation to remove wisdom teeth.

Lord McAlpine remarked that Mrs Major's reply was surprising, because he spoke to Mrs Thatcher and Jeffrey Archer that day. "I cannot help wondering sometimes about his miraculous recovery the next day to fight his own campaign for the leadership of the Conservative Party."

"Try as I may, I cannot understand why Major's teeth gave him no trouble from the beginning of July, when Parliament broke up, to November

when the leadership elections occurred." But Lord McAlpine, who said that election defeat would do the Tories a lot of good, believed that the treachery of those days, at the end of November 1990, was no new treachery. "It had long been in the planning. In truth, the vote of the backbenchers was meaningless. Margaret Thatcher's fate was sealed when her Cabinet deserted her en masse."



McAlpine: Wrote a book on Thatcher's overthrow

## Blair briefing bans green issues chief

Nicholas Schoon,  
Environment Correspondent

The head of Friends of the Earth has been banned from attending a meeting between Tony Blair and Britain's top environmentalists on Wednesday. Charles Secrett's offence was to write an article in a radical magazine saying the Government and the Liberal Democrats had a better environmental reputation than the Opposition.

He wrote: "Any party hierarchy that lacks the insight and courage to take the lead on these mainstream issues does not deserve to win an election."

After his harsh words appeared in *Red Pepper*, the satirical political magazine, the Labour leader's office made it clear Mr Secrett would not be welcome at the next meeting between Mr Blair and the senior greens. The previous gathering was just before Christmas.

"It's a shame that they're shooting the messenger but we'll all get over it," said Mr Secrett, executive director of the Friends. "The most important thing is that he really listens to the others who'll be there."

Leaders of six environmental and conservation groups including Greenpeace, the Wildlife Trusts, RSPB and WWF are meeting the Labour leader in an attempt to raise the profile of green issues in the party's manifesto.

The green group is also seeking meetings with the Prime Minister and the Liberal Democrat leader Paddy Ashdown.

Labour baffles and frustrates the greens. For years the party has made little play on key environmental issues like air pollution and loss of countryside and wildlife, although that has changed with the appointment of Michael Meacher as envi-

Labour leadership punishes Friends of the Earth for attack on policy

ronment protection spokesman. However, they worry that the two most important Labour politicians, Tony Blair and the shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown listen politely and promise little. Gordon Brown's cautious statement that he favours switching taxes from employment and investment on to pollution and depletion of natural resources gives them a glimmer of hope.

The environmentalists fondly remember "In Trust For Tomorrow", Labour's radical green policy document of 1994, when Chris Smith was environment spokesman. Since then little has been heard about some of its proposals such as creating new national parks and making drivers of gas guzzling cars pay more for their tax discs.

Since then Labour has inserted a strongly pro-environment statement into the party's aims and principles when Clause 4 was rewritten. It has also pledged to create temporary jobs and training for tens of thousands of unemployed youngsters in insulating homes and in nature conservation.

When they meet Mr Blair on Wednesday, the green groups' message will boil down to this: "Our agenda is not about air-fairly concerns of the middle class. It offers ways of raising revenue, creating jobs, reducing costly illness and helping the poor." One campaigner said: "If Mr Blair really wants to change Britain for the better without increasing the tax burden he could start by embracing the green agenda."



Leader of the pack: Sir James Goldsmith addressing parliamentary candidates of his Referendum Party at a meeting at Westminster yesterday Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

## Lib-Lab deal to set up electoral commission

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

Labour has given the Liberal Democrats grudging agreement to the creation of a commission that would draw up proposals for a referendum on electoral reform.

But leading Labour sources last night dismissed suggestions that the agreement gave any kind of commitment to back proportional representation.

If Labour is elected, an agreement expected this week would provide for an electoral commission to be set up, with a one-year deadline in which to deliver its report on the detailed terms of a referendum.

The idea is that a Labour government would then have plenty of time to hold a national ballot and, if the voters called for the existing first-past-the-post electoral system to be dumped, enact legislation.

Theoretically, that could mean this year's election would be the last to be held under the current voting system. The Lib-Lab deal was spearheaded by Robert MacLennan for the Liberal Democrats, and Robin Cook, the shadow Foreign Secretary, who supports PR.

But, according to Labour leadership sources, Tony Blair's fundamental hostility remains as strong as ever, and there are real fears that premature moves could threaten Labour unity.

The delicacy of the Lib-Lab talks was also shown yesterday

by Lord Holme, the Liberal Democrats' election campaign manager, who unceremoniously rejected a hint by Lord Jenkins, his party's leader in the House of Lords, that Labour and the Liberal Democrats might, at some point, merge.

The former Labour Cabinet minister told a conference on Saturday that he would not rejoin his former party, before adding: "That, however, does not preclude a merger where it's a marriage of true and settled minds, as in the 1988 SDP/Liberal merger."

Lord Holme told BBC television's *On the Record*: "Nobody can exclude anything in politics, but it is certainly not on the agenda now."

"Certainly, sitting here today, approaching this crucial election, when we're fighting on a very different platform from Labour, I absolutely exclude any possibility of a merger with the Labour Party as being on the agenda now or at any foreseeable future that I can see."

He said that one of the reasons the Liberal Democrats were so enthusiastic about fair voting was because they wanted to give people more choice, not less. "I'd much rather have a political system where you had people who are Liberals, people who are socialists, people who are Conservative, competing, and I think that would be far healthier for our democracy."

But Lord Holme - who is

extremely close to Paddy Ashdown and his party leadership - said he was not completely confident that the Lib-Lab talks would deliver agreement.

"These talks are still going on," he said. "But let's agree for the sake of a useful discussion that it does seem very likely that there will be agreement sometime in the next few days, or weeks. I think, personally, that the idea of a commission to identify a fair voting system that could then be put to a referendum, I think it's a very good idea. I think it's a constructive proposal to come out with."

The difficulty faced by the Liberal Democrats and Labour is that they are currently vying for some of the same votes, and Mr Ashdown has been deliberately painting his party as the more radical alternative with a programme that includes redistributive tax hikes for the well-off, with the cash being redirected to about 500,000 low-income taxpayers.

They do not want to be seen as two parties on the verge of merger, or even two parties that are cooking up a post-election deal on electoral reform. Just as there are many Liberal Democrats opposed to pacts or deals with Labour, there are many Labour activists who are diehard opponents of electoral reform.

Even if he supported electoral reform, and there are the strongest doubts about that, Mr Blair would need to tread carefully, and he is.

## Labour plan to outlaw deselection battles

Fran Abrams  
Political Correspondent

Labour is facing an internal dispute over plans to prevent its most senior MPs from being forced into fighting messy, high-profile deselection battles if it gets into government.

The party's ruling body meets later this month to discuss a rule change which would demand a full-scale "no confidence" vote before a sitting MP can be challenged. The reform would mean that 50 per cent of local members would have to vote against the member before a full deselection battle can take place.

The move is to be proposed to prevent disgruntled left-wingers within the party from putting up challenges to Labour cabinet ministers in order to win publicity for their causes.

Other proposals in a draft package to be put before the

party's National Executive Committee will include plans to draw up a central "approved" list of prospective candidates similar to the one already kept by the Conservatives.

Local and national forums might be given the right to decide who is given the go-ahead to seek selection in seats where an MP is retiring, though the national executive would retain the right to strike off anyone of whom it disapproves.

The proposals, drawn up by a special sub-committee, are due to be given final approval in June before being put to the party's annual conference in September.

They are bound to draw criticism from a number of the party's MPs, some of whom say they are unnecessarily draconian and divisive.

Ken Livingstone, MP for

sitting members from being removed from their seats. Few members were ever deselected under the old system, he said, and some of those were so hopelessly ineffective that they deserved to go.

Labour had discussed a similar idea 15 years ago and had decided not to go ahead with it, he said.

"It's abysmally divisive. It means that instead of the present system, where if there is dissatisfaction people can express it, you have to turn it into a vote of no confidence," he said.

The only sitting Labour MP who has been deselected since the last election is David Young, the member for Bolton South East. He was successfully challenged in 1994 by Brian Iddon after 20 years in the constituency, facing complaints that at 64 he was too old and that he lacked local campaigning zeal.

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# Tories' tearful lion is retired in disgrace



Fallen idol: The lion campaign, described by one industry leader as 'pathetic', that the Tories are to ditch

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

Michael Heseltine yesterday showed complete contempt for his colleague John Redwood, suggesting that he was not a serious party figure.

The former Cabinet minister, who challenged John Major for the party leadership last year, criticised the lack of clear command over the Conservative election campaign. But when his views were put to the Deputy Prime Minister during BBC's *On the Record* programme yesterday, Mr Heseltine asked who had made the criticism.

Told that the attack had been delivered by Mr Redwood, the Deputy Prime Minister laughed, spluttered and excused his 'cough'. Told again that Mr Redwood had made the criticism, Mr Heseltine said: 'Let's keep on serious politics.' Earlier, Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, had insisted on *Frost on Sunday*: 'I'm in charge.' He said: 'I'm in charge of the Conservative election strategy and performance ... I'm also smarter than sometimes the media gives me credit. I recognise Michael Heseltine as a great asset and so we're going to be working very closely together.'

Mr Heseltine said the Prime Minister was 'totally in charge' of the overall determination to win. Dr Mawhinney is chairman of the party and therefore has responsibility for the campaign, he said.

'I help the Prime Minister and Brian Mawhinney. There is not a sliver of cigarette paper between us and no matter how

hard the journalists try to prise us apart, they will fail because the reality is that we work extremely closely.

'We know what each other's jobs are and we respect that position. Brian Mawhinney is in charge of the Conservative campaign and will remain there until polling day, when he will be the party chairman that delivered the fifth Conservative election victory.'

One of Dr Mawhinney's



Brian Mawhinney: 'Smarter than media gives me credit'

Senior Tories were reported to have been dismayed that the advertisement failed to roar the party's message to the electorate and boost its image by raising doubts over Labour. The campaign lost a good deal of steam when it emerged that the lion, far from representing a brave spirit of the British electorate, was in fact a rather placid beast.

Two experienced advertising directors strongly criticised the lion advertisements yesterday, saying they were 'pathetic'. Ken Dampier, of Dampier Communications, who used to produce advertising campaigns for the Central Office of Information, said he thought the lion was one of the worst campaigns he had seen in 25 years in the business.

'The idea that because there's a change of political party in power that in some way will leave the British lion shedding tears is pathetic. Frankly, it's beyond contempt,' he said.

Len Weirich, a former creative director of Burdett, Weirich and Bryant, said any campaign for the Conservatives now was a lost cause.

'The lion image is bizarre. Adverts cannot change a trend, they can only promote a growing brand,' he said. 'The Conservatives are not a fashionable brand. It's like trying to sell a cheap pair of jeans when people really want Levi's. Levi's is new Labour and there is very little the Tories can do to solve that.'

'If they put the Spice Girls naked on a poster with a caption saying 'Vote Tory, we do', it still wouldn't make any difference.'

## BBC under fire for assuming Blair win

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

A Labour election victory is a built-in assumption for BBC news broadcasts, Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, said yesterday.

He told BBC television's *Breakfast with Frost* that he wanted to discuss with Tony Hall, chief executive of BBC News, the position of 'active' Labour supporters within the organisation.

Dr Mawhinney cited the cases of Ben Bradshaw, a former presenter of *The World this Weekend* radio programme, who has been selected as Labour candidate in the marginal seat of Exeter, while remaining on the BBC payroll, and Joy Johnson, former Director of Communications for the Labour Party, who had recently been re-appointed to a BBC post.

'But there is also, I think, an issue to be discussed around what appears, from our point of view, too regularly to be an assumption that underlies the way BBC news broadcasts come across, of a Labour victory, as it were, predetermined,' the party chairman said.

'And so, before we get into the real rush and bustle of an election, I think those are the

sort of things that we need to sort out and I'm looking forward to having a chat with Tony Hall about them.'

That 'chat' will be underlined by the back-up threat of BBC privatisation, raised by Charles Lewington, the Conservatives' director of communications, who said yesterday: 'The reality may well be that the BBC will never fully understand the market economy until it is part of it.'

The Conservative attack on the BBC is part of the pre-election ritual, a softening-up exercise designed to harass the broadcasters into a more submissive, less critical attitude during the campaign.

Two former Conservative ministers, Alan Clark and George Walden, both said yesterday that they saw no evidence of BBC bias.

Mr Clark, the prospective Tory candidate for Kensington, told Sky's *Sunday With Adam Boulton* programme: 'Basically, the corporation is completely neutral, I think.'

Mr Walden told GMTV's *Sunday* programme that it was the news that was biased against the Tories, not the BBC. 'If anything, I've noticed the BBC being a little bit tougher on Labour,' he said.

Chris Smith, Labour's health spokesman, told the same programme: 'It's absolutely ridiculous to say the BBC are biased in one direction or another.'

Another element in the pre-election ritual - speculation about a head-to-head debate between the party leaders - was also raised over the weekend.

But as with speculation about the date of the election itself, Dr Mawhinney teased his interviewer, and the public, yesterday. Repeatedly asked by Sir David Frost about the chances of a debate between Mr Major and Mr Blair, Dr Mawhinney said: 'An election is about debating the issues.'

'It's not about sound-bites, it's about having the leaders say, 'Here are the issues that we want to put to the country,' and getting those thoroughly explored, and the media has its role in exploring those issues. That's what an election's about.'

However, he also said: 'The initiative has to lie with the media because there are legal responsibilities that they would have to address. They are not legal responsibilities for me.'

'But if they want to come and produce something for me to look at, then of course we would look at them.'

## Treasury staff protest at promotion squeeze

Diane Coyle  
Economics Editor

Staff at the Treasury have threatened to walk out over management plans that would limit promotion prospects for economists in the department who have not held administrative jobs.

Their union, the First Division Association, has complained about the new promotion rules to senior Treasury management, headed by the Permanent Secretary, Sir Terry Burns.

The rules would require candidates for promotion to Grade 7 and above - anybody in their late twenties and older - to have held a wide range of jobs within the department. Senior management on promotion boards have interpreted this to mean that anyone who had held only economic jobs and had no administrative experience was unsuitable. No economists were promoted, even though some

jobs remained unfilled. Some candidates threatened to resign.

The 150 or so economists in the department have not been required to diversify in this way before. Many were furious over having their career goal posts moved. They perceive many of the administrators in the department to have little knowledge of economics. One said: 'It is scandalous how little some people in the Treasury know about economics.'

Nor did it help that the department's senior managers are all macro economists. Sir Terry Burns joined the Treasury as chief economic adviser from the London Business School before his promotion to permanent secretary.

The new requirement would also take the Treasury in the opposite direction to the Bank of England, where a new emphasis on the importance of economic expertise has sidelined many generalist officials.

The proposals are only the latest in a series of changes in Whitehall's most prestigious department which have thoroughly demoralised many of its staff. Two years ago a quarter of all senior posts were axed as part of the department's 'fundamental expenditure review'.

Although this actually boosted the careers of younger officials by giving them more responsibility, it limited promotion opportunities.

Up to 50 further job cuts could be in prospect if the Treasury forecast is contracted out to the private sector. The management consultants KPMG are due to report later this month on whether the move should go ahead.

The department is also due to move out of its prominent offices on the corner of Parliament Square to an unattractive office block across the Thames in Vauxhall, much further from the House of Commons.

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## news

## Ballet takes its new talent on tour

The Royal Ballet is taking dance to the provinces with its Dance Bites tour – featuring works by up-and-coming choreographers – which begins in Sheffield tonight.

More than 25 members of the Royal Ballet are taking part in the performances, which include shows at the Wycombe Swan in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, from Thursday to Saturday and Bath's Theatre Royal on 10 and 11 March.

The tour marks the culmination of the Royal Ballet's two-year Network education project, which will involve 3,000 local students in all three venues.

Works performed will include Christopher Wheeldon's *Parade pour une infinité définitive*, and also feature world premières of new ballets by Cuthy Marston, Ashley Page, Tom Sapstord and William Tucker.



Gillian Revie slides over a grand piano in Matthew Hart's *Cry Baby Kreisler*, which forms part of the Royal Ballet's Dance Bites tour. Photograph: Laurie Lewis

## The face of crime captured digitally

David Garfinkel and Jason Bonnetto

Millions of photographs of criminals and suspects are likely to be placed on a national computer identification system being developed by the police, in what they hope will be a breakthrough in crime fighting.

Several police forces have already set up their own "facial mapping" data banks, including South Wales, which has photographs of 150,000 criminals and suspects, and Essex, which has 90,000.

The Home Office and police chiefs are currently working on a national system, which will help match unidentified suspects with photographs of known offenders and provide criminal histories.

This is expected to eventually lead to more advanced automatic "facial recognition" which will identify anyone caught on video or film in seconds. The technology could be used at airports, stations, and football matches to instantly spot known offenders.

Experts predict that within the next five years all police forces will have facial mapping computers. The system could revolutionise crime fighting, but also raises civil liberty issues. Concerns about the growing use of surveillance technology are raised in BBC2's *The Sci-Fi Files* tonight.

At least seven police forces in England and Wales already either use, or are trialling, forms of photographic identification.

In Essex they have a manual system using a database of about 90,000 photographs of offenders which can be compared with images collected from crime scenes, such as town centre sur-

veillance cameras. Ken Lange, principal photographic officer with Essex police said: "Using video overlays it proves identification similar to finger printing, as it matches up physical features... eventually in four or five years there will be a national system of facial recognition."

Adrian Clark, a senior lecturer in electronic engineering at Essex university, said they are trying to automate the facial mapping process. "It will locate the important facial features and attempt to match up identification with a data bank of pictures," he said.

The Metropolitan Police is also looking at new developments and are in contact with the American research team that developed the "Star Wars" project.

Dr Richard Green, of the centre of applied research and technology at Scotland Yard, said he thought the Metropolitan Police would have a new mapping system in about four years.

Police forces in West Yorkshire, Essex, Avon and Somerset, the Metropolitan Police and Greater Manchester police, are working with Forensic Technology Ltd, a Scottish company, to trial a facial recognition system.

Peter Cochrane, head of development at BT, said "it is almost 100 per cent likely" that within five years, there will be a system that could revolutionise CCTV, by offering the ability to put a name to any face picked up randomly on any camera in the land.

Civil liberty campaigners are bound to be worried about the use of a national photographic database and will want guarantees about what information is stored and who has access.

## Police to help city vet tenants

Esther Leach

Police are to pass on details of past convictions of tenants to help a city council evict troublemakers from housing estates.

The details of a range of crimes, including the activities of paedophiles, drug-dealers and burglars, will be given by West Yorkshire police to Leeds Council.

Inspector Alan Featherstone said housing officers will not be allowed to go on "fishing trips" for information. Each request, he said, would be considered on its merits and must form part of a legal case being prepared for eviction. He said the passing of information will be made under secure conditions with named contacts and a dedicated fax link.

"It will be a two-way partnership," said Insp Featherstone. "We will give information relevant to the case for eviction and it's up to the council to justify its use in the courts. But we would also expect the Council to let us know of any criminal activity they suspect is going on."

Housing chairman Richard Lewis said the scheme could not be considered as part of the trend to "out" convicted sex offenders, including paedophiles. He did not want tenants taking the law into their own

hands. "I know on certain estates if there is an inkling of paedophile activity, that person could be burned out. We don't want to get into that," he said.

All tenants will sign contracts which make it clear that criminal and nuisance behaviour could be grounds for eviction. An anti-social behaviour team has been formed to support housing managers trying to deal with cases of intimidation and reprisals.

They may act as professional witnesses in cases of unacceptable behaviour and provide surveillance equipment in the homes of harassment victims. There is already a list of 50 high priority cases, says the council.

Mr Lewis added that dealing with anti-social behaviour costs the council £3m a year which it can ill-afford. "When you add to this the misery they cause to other people, we have no choice but to act decisively."

Doreen Tinker, 66, chair of the Leeds Tenants Involvement Committee and a council tenant for 23 years, said she welcomed the move. "I don't think tenants are going to be bothered about this information going to the council if it's a case of severe anti-social behaviour. I don't think we want lists of offenders published because everyone deserves a second chance," she said.

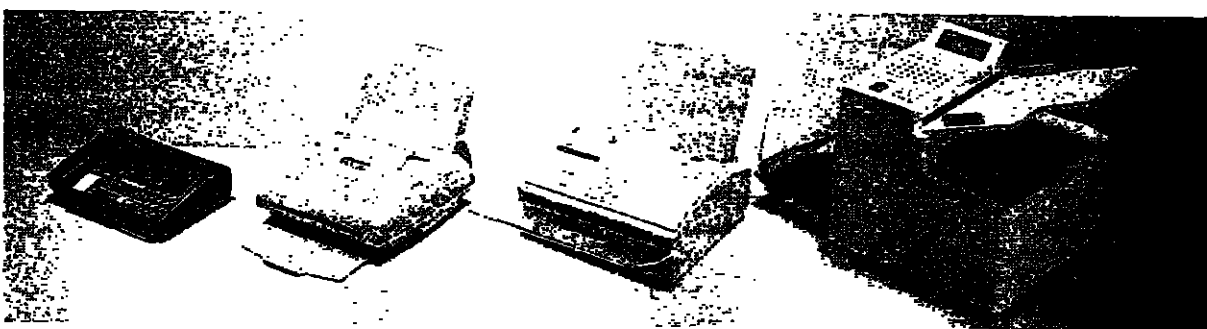
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## DAILY POEM

## A Song for Frances

By Michael Horovitz

*I hear you call my head a bin  
Where children dip their buckets in*

*As I float and tinkle in the sky  
The sun at your mermaid tail doth fly*

*Earth sings through you from where oceans flow  
Nourishing forests aens below*

*Where jellyfish squish at the plashing barrel  
Of starfood – where no man picks a quarrel*

*You ward off the flies with a wand of fresh fernlets  
You come softly to mind in a clearing of dreams*

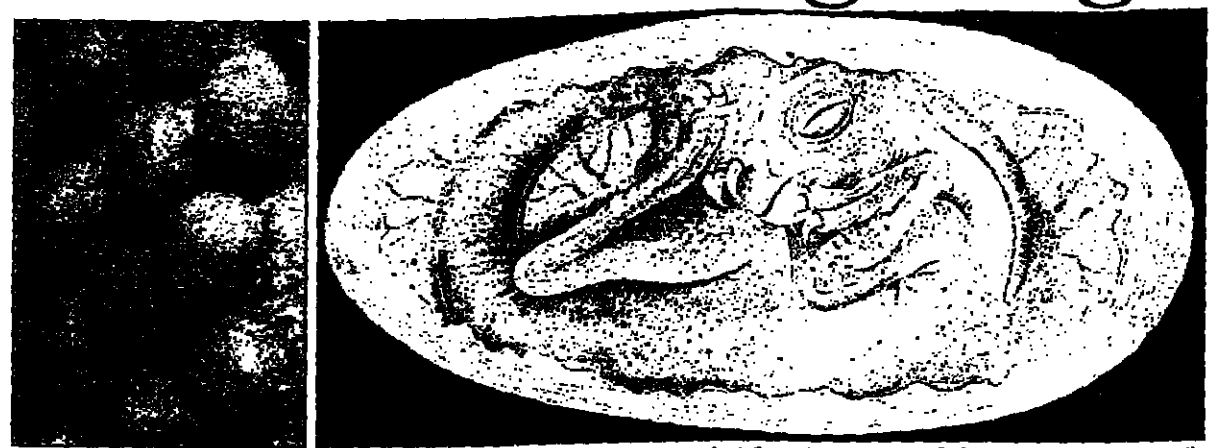
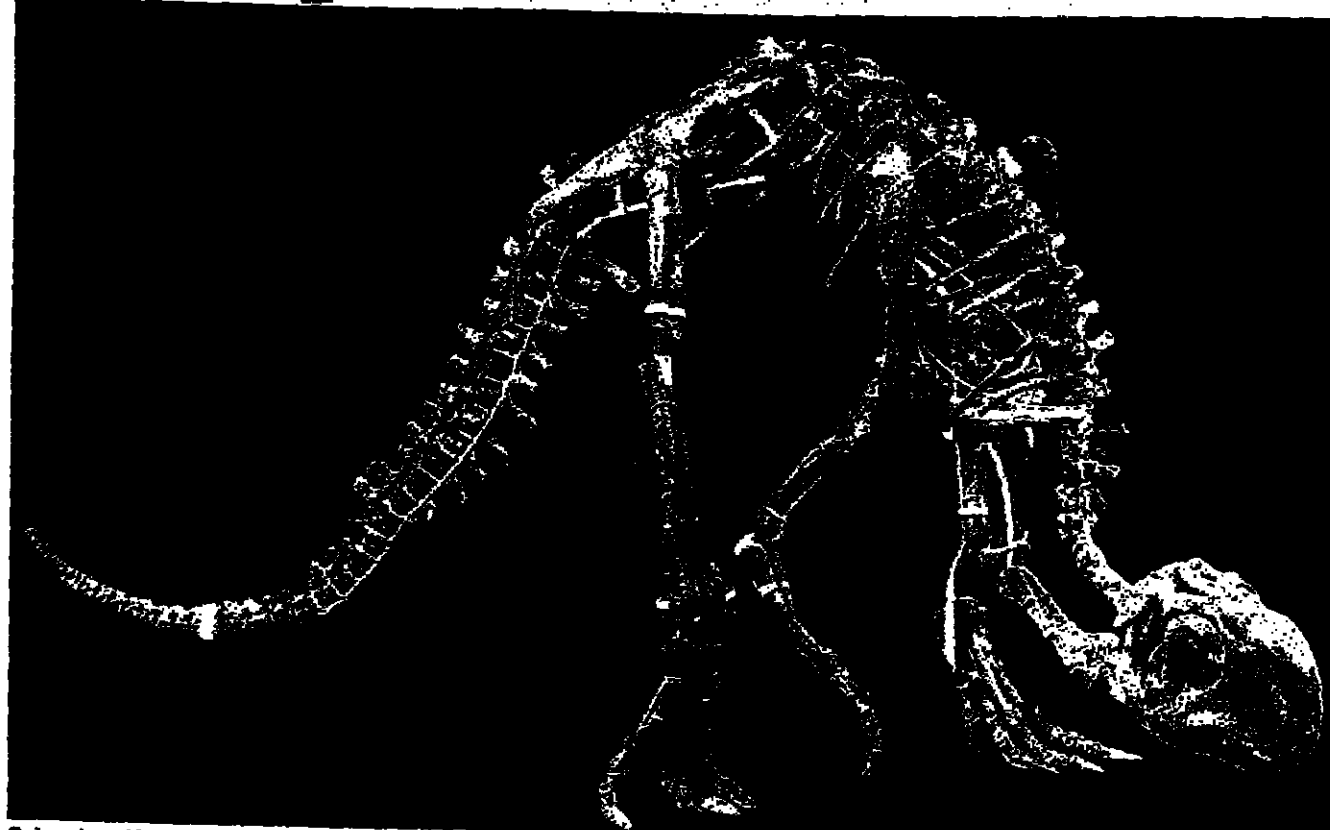
*Whilst the moon falls asleep as the cock greets the sun  
We walk air, tread water – bird and fish as one.*

"A Song for Frances" comes from *The POW! Anthology*, published to commemorate last year's Poetry Olympics Weekend, with contributors ranging from Damon Albarn to James Fenton, Nick Cave to Carol Ann Duffy. The collection costs £7.99 from New Departures, PO Box 9819, London W11 2GQ. Michael Horovitz will be talking with Marsha Hunt about the culture of the 1960s in the Voice Box at the Royal Festival Hall on Thursday 6 March at 7.30pm.

هكذا من الأصل



# Disreputable dinosaur hatches a more caring image



Mistaken identity: Eggs, left, thought to belong to Protoceratops, but found to contain Oviraptor embryos (right)

**Beverley Cohen**

The reputation of the Oviraptor, a much-maligned dinosaur from Mongolia, will be salvaged by the Natural History Museum in May, when it stages an exhibition of dinosaurs which have never before been seen in the UK.

The Oviraptor had no teeth and a powerful beak. It was thought to be a predatory creature which fed on the eggs of other dinosaurs. Hence its name, which means "egg robber". A 1924 expedition found an Oviraptor skeleton perched on a nest of eggs thought to belong to a female Protoceratops, which gave credence to the theory. But in 1993 it was revealed that this Oviraptor was merely performing her motherly duties. Another egg like the ones in the nest was found, so well preserved it was possible to see an embryo crouched inside. It wasn't a baby Protoceratops, but an Oviraptor. The 1924 specimen was merely sitting on her own young, she was not poised to gobble up the eggs.

The discovery was also remarkable as there was no previous evidence that dinosaurs actually sat on their eggs like birds, although Angela Milner, who works at the museum, in South Kensington, west London, is quick to insist that many dinosaurs would not have done this as they were far too big.

This Oviraptor embryo can be seen in the exhibition, which has the current working title "Global Desert Dinosaurs", as can the world's only replica of the mother and her nest.

"This is some of the best material in the world, and most of these dinosaurs will not be known to the British public," said Ms Milner.

The skull of a Velociraptor, famed for opening doors in Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park*, will also be on display. The exhibition will run from 18 May to 31 August.

Oviraptor: Not the raider of nests as was previously believed but in fact a good mother to her young

## Rail firm fined for crowded trains

**Randeep Ramesh**  
Transport Correspondent

Privatised train companies have picked up a new type of passenger - the picee. And it's costing them.

Private firms are being fined hundreds of pounds for overcrowded trains which often leave travellers abandoned on platforms. These Passengers in Excess of Capacity - or picees - are forcing private firms to return taxpayer's subsidies.

Connex South Eastern, which runs services between London and Kent, has fallen victim to the payment regime. In January, the electrical circuits of 16 trains were damaged during by snow and ice.

The shortage of rolling stock meant that commuters were crammed into trains half the normal length. New guidelines mean that firms are fined if each standing passenger is not surrounded by "0.55 square metres of space". Over a number of days, the French firm Connex had to pay hundreds of pounds in fines.

Despite the penalties the MP for Kent seat of Thanet South, Jonathan Aitken, accused Connex of "short changing customers and then fobbing them off with lame excuses". Mr Aitken said shorter trains had "become increasingly commonplace" in Ramsgate.

Opraf, the government body which let all 25 of the train companies and oversees the smooth running of the network, uses a computer system which alerts it

to any abuses on the network. If a train company tries to run a train shorter than its contract allows, without informing Opraf, the computer immediately alerts civil servants.

Penalties are severe. If a train fails to turn up, the operator can be charged more than £700. In 1995, nearly 15 per cent of the 2,235 services in to and out of London were "too full".

But passenger watchdogs claim the system is open to abuse. They claim that under government guidelines train operators have to ensure that operators plan their services in such a way that no passenger is required to stand for more than 20 minutes.

John Carledge, assistant director of the London Regional Passengers Committee, said: "We have held talks with Opraf on this but they have yet to tell us how they are going to make sure it happens."

Mr Carledge also says that Opraf's guidelines published last year claimed that a survey would be carried out every six months to determine how many trains would be needed to meet customer demand. Opraf has only carried out one poll in the first nine months of the private railway and are still crunching through the details.

The first survey of the passenger network was completed in the autumn, Opraf said, and there would be no tests this year. "British Rail carried out one internal survey a year. We have no plans to do more," said a spokesman.

## 100-year county survey at risk

**Stephen Goodwin**  
Heritage Correspondent

Historians and senior politicians have united to try to secure funds to complete a monumental survey of the counties of England. Begun in 1899, the Victoria County History already runs to 200 volumes but public-spending cuts risk leaving the project incomplete and many parishes unrecorded.

In a letter published in today's *Independent*, the VCH's supporters, including Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the historian Lord Beloff and authoress Lady Antonia Fraser, call on the Government to examine how this "vital and scholarly endeavour" can be completed.

The history is unparalleled in its scale and detail. "General volumes covering subjects such as prehistory, politics and economic development on a county-wide basis were completed decades ago for most of the 42 traditional counties of England. Since then the research has focused on parish and town histories: their architecture, cultural development, churches, chapels and local industries.

Fourteen county sets are complete and work is in progress on another 13. Each

volume costs £50 or more - the eight-volume Lancashire set, for example, would cost £445.

But the VCH is a saga in itself. So called because it commemorated the Queen's diamond jubilee, rapid progress was made in the early years and 75 volumes appeared by 1914. Financial difficulties dogged the enterprise between the wars and at its low point the staff was reduced to a retired editor who stored the archives in his garden shed in Sussex.

A revival followed the Second World War, with a steady run of volumes produced under the auspices of the University of London's Institute of Historical Research in partnership with local authorities prepared to fund surveys in their area. But its budget of about £950,000 has been eroded in real terms since 1991.

Beneath the "storm clouds" of spending cuts, as general editor Christopher Currie refers to them, councils have had to weigh vital public services against academic luxuries. The hopes of the VCH now rest with the National Lottery. Given adequate funding, Mr Currie believes the bold plan of producing another 300 to 350 volumes over 30 years could be completed.

Letters, page 14



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## news

# Council's 'wasted' £20m demolition

Labour authority faces inquiry into deal to let private firm raze estate for private homes

Christian Wolmar  
Westminster Correspondent

A Labour council's scheme to demolish 600 council houses and replace them with homes for sale has been raised with the district auditor following growing opposition to the plan.

The auditor of Hull city council is also being asked to look at the way in which a single developer, Keepmoat, has been given sole rights to purchase, without competitive tender, all housing development land in the city for the next six or seven years as part of the redevelopment scheme.

Demolition has started on the tightly-knit Gipsyville estate in Hull despite increasing concerns from residents that their community is being destroyed and that the houses could be refurbished rather than pulled down.

The complex deal is a partnership between Hull and Keepmoat and as well as the demolition it involves the refurbishment of the remaining 600 houses on the estate paid for with government regeneration money, council funds and Keepmoat's profits from the sale of land.

Two weeks ago, *The Independent* revealed that the district auditor in Doncaster was to investigate Doncaster 2000, a venture involving the same company, Keepmoat, and the local council.

Councillors in Doncaster have been criticised by the district auditor for accepting "inappropriate hospitality" from Keepmoat after the company left raffle tickets, with a first prize of a trip to the Kentucky Derby, on seats in its box at the racecourse. The prize was won by a Barnsley council official.

The row is an embarrassment for John Prescott, who is a Hull MP and a close political ally of the housing chairman, John Black, who has piloted through the Gipsyville scheme. Mr Black refused to comment last night.

The Hull scheme was not put out to tender because the council says that Keepmoat was the



Grounds for concern: Council homes on the Gipsyville estate in west Hull. The house on the left is occupied but its neighbour is ready for demolition Photograph: Guezellian

only company interested in developing the estate. It says the extra land sales were necessary to pay for the refurbishment of the remaining homes.

John Perry, of the Chartered Institute for Housing, said he thought the Hull deal was unusual: "Normally, councils only give such exclusive deals on their land to non-profit making bodies such as housing associations. Developers normally have to go through a tendering process for all land."

Local residents opposed to the scheme say the houses have withstood the test of time. They are neatly laid out, next to a park along tree-lined avenues and it is only the damage created by demolition men which makes the estate look run down. The residents are bemused about why Gipsyville, a popular estate

in West Hull, one of the better parts of the city, was chosen for such massive redevelopment now not normally favoured by local councils or Government. They point out that there are many areas of Hull with high-rise flats in much more need of radical treatment.

Pat Hopper, 60, a local resident who opposes the scheme and bought her house, said: "There's nothing basically wrong with these houses which a bit of improvement money would not have put right." Residents have suggested that instead of comprehensive redevelopment, the council's contribution of £10m to the Keepmoat scheme should have been spent on minor improvements requested by the tenants. Mrs Hopper said: "My mother lives next door and all she needs is

a new bathroom suite. These houses were refurbished only 20 years ago and everything in them is very sound."

A local church worker, Andrew Dorton, wrote to the housing minister, David Curry, in December expressing con-

**There are many areas of Hull with high-rise flats in much more need of such radical treatment**

cerns at the way the community was being broken up by the scheme and said the council was "intimidatory" for starting demolition of houses next to owner-occupied homes like Mrs Hopper's which are still the sub-

ject of a planning inquiry decision.

Chris Jarvis, a Labour councillor who has lost the party whip after opposing the scheme, is seeing the district auditor next week about his concerns about the plan. "I can't understand

used to build housing for sale."

The scheme is also attracting opposition around the city. Last month three councillors in the Orchard Park ward who expressed concern in a committee meeting over the proposed development of a shopping centre by Keepmoat were threatened with losing the party whip if they continued with their opposition because "it was against party policy".

Tony Fee, one of the three said: "All I wanted was for the site to be put out to tender and for the profits to be spent locally rather than on Gipsyville."

If the CPO order is not granted, the financial viability of the whole Gipsyville scheme will be put into question.

The highly charged nature of the decision is thought to have caused the delay since the inquiry in November.

tenants. Patrick Doyle, the city council leader, said: "The Government is putting in £1.7m of grant through its single regeneration budget. This is very carefully scrutinised at every stage and if they were worried about it, they would not put in any money."

Although 30 houses on Gipsyville have been demolished the scheme is currently being delayed because of a planning inquiry into a compulsory purchase order of a dozen homes which have been bought by former tenants.

If the CPO order is not granted, the financial viability of the whole Gipsyville scheme will be put into question.

The highly charged nature of the decision is thought to have caused the delay since the inquiry in November.

The highly charged nature of the decision is thought to have caused the delay since the inquiry in November.

## Ulcer pill hope for childbirth deaths

Annabel Ferriman

The lives of 250,000 women who die in childbirth around the world each year could be saved by a treatment being developed at a London teaching hospital.

A report published today suggests that all mothers could be given a pill to reduce blood loss after childbirth, instead of the injection that they currently receive. The research has huge implications for the Third World, where most of the maternal deaths occur.

The new pill, which uses an old drug originally developed to treat peptic ulcers, is just as effective as the injection at reducing bleeding, but can be more easily stored in hot climates and does not carry an infection risk from dirty needles.

The pill could also improve childbirth in the UK because it appears to cause fewer side effects than the injection which can cause nausea, vomiting and raised blood pressure.

"In this pill, we seem to have an easy to administer, easy to store and safe to take precaution against haemorrhage following childbirth. It could save the lives of hundreds of thousands of women across the world," said Dr Hazim el Refaey, a senior registrar in obstetrics and gynaecology at University College London Hospitals, who conducted the research, published today in the *British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*.

Following Dr Refaey's study of 250 expectant women in London the World Health Organisation is to run a trial comparing the two drugs on 20,000 women in eight countries, including China, Vietnam, Egypt, Ireland, South Africa and the UK. It is expected to start in September and last 12-18 months.

Janet Gilbert, 38, from Highbury, north London, who took part in the research at University College London Hospitals, found the pill "indefinitely preferable" to the injection. "The tablet was much better. Not having to cope with being physically sick was wonderful. Emotionally it was much easier to deal with," she said.

## Anti-gun lobby's new fears

Jason Bennetto  
Crime Correspondent

Gun owners are being offered a legal way to side-step the new anti-firearms laws and keep their favourite weapons - provoking outrage from Dunblane campaigners.

A company is offering to deactivate firearms for £35 and beat the government ban.

Gill Marshall-Andrews, chairwoman of the Gun Control Network, set up after the Dunblane massacre, said: "Deactivated weapons can induce fear in just the same way as a working gun."

Anti-firearm groups are angry that a company called Worldwide Arms has placed a number of full-page advertisements, including one in this month's *Gun Mart* magazine, offering to deactivate guns. It says: "The Government has banned it. Do you want to keep yours? Then let us deactivate it. It adds: "They are legal and licence free."

Police chiefs have expressed growing concern about the rise in the number of deactivated weapons and argue many are being reactivated and used by criminals in a thriving black market. A deactivated gun must have

a number of alterations carried out, including the removal of the firing pin. It is then checked by government inspectors. But Roy Penrose, the national co-ordinator of the Regional Crime Squad, said: "There's only one place to deactivate [the guns], and that's in the smelter."

Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, also expressed concern about the growing trade in "deactivated" firearms from Eastern Europe. The guns, including Uzi machine guns and Kalashnikov assault rifles, are imported as ornaments and reactivated by

gunsmiths and criminals in Britain.

Under the Firearms Bill that comes into force later this year, all guns above .22 calibre must be either destroyed, sold abroad or deactivated.

An employee at Worldwide Arms, based in Stafford, said strict procedures are followed to deactivate guns. But he refused to comment on complaints that they could still be dangerous.

A Home Office spokesman said that the regulations on deactivation had been tightened up before the Dunblane killings and were now "considerable".

## CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices	Legal Notices	Legal Services	Public Notices	Public Notices
<p>No. 00744 of 1997 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF J.J.'S FAMILY RESTAURANTS LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a Petition was presented to Her Majesty's Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £1,111,340 to £100,000 and the cancellation of the Company's share premium account in the sum of £1,254,121.</p> <p>AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday, the 13th day of March 1997.</p> <p>Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.</p> <p>A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such persons requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.</p> <p>Dated this 3rd day of March 1997 Myers Cowley 37 Mark Lane, London EC3R 7DF Solicitors for the Company</p>	<p>ADVERTISMENT FOR PROPOSED PAYMENT OUT OF CAPITAL FOR PURCHASE OF OWN SHARES HOMELIFE LIMITED ("the Company") NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to the Companies Act 1985 Section 175 that on 27 February 1997 a Written Special Resolution of the Company was passed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>approving a form of Contract providing for the purchase by the Company of 125,000 of its ordinary shares of £1 each for the aggregate sum of £125,000; and</li> <li>authorising the payment of £114,580 of the said sum out of capital.</li> </ol> <p>The Statutory Declaration of the Directors of the Company and the Auditors' Report required by the Companies Act 1985 Section 175(5) are available for inspection at the Registered Office of the Company at Tudor House, 13-15 Rensley Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 0BE.</p> <p>Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the five weeks immediately following 27 February 1997 apply to the Court under the Companies Act 1985 Section 176 for an Order cancelling the resolution or for other relief.</p> <p>N A Dunn Secretary of the Company</p>	<p>No. 00699 of 1997 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT IN THE MATTER OF BAL LIMITED - and - IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the said Company from £25,000 to £5,000.</p> <p>And notice is further given that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 12th day of March 1997.</p> <p>Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.</p> <p>A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such persons requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.</p> <p>Dated: 27 February 1997 Gibson Clark 20 Great Charles Street Bristol BS1 4BE Telephone Number: 0117 8457 247 (Ref. 524) Solicitors for the above named Company</p>	<p>PROTECTOR SPORTS LIMITED Company Number: 2728623 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Connaught House, Alexandra Terrace, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3DA on 7 March 1997 at 12.00 noon for the purpose mentioned in the above notice. The Companies Act 1986, sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act, the appointment of a Liquidator and a Liquidation Committee. Mr J J Stubbins of Leach Bright &amp; Partners, Connaught House, Alexandra Terrace, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3DA is qualified to act as an Insolvency practitioner in relation to the company and will furnish creditors with such information concerning the company's affairs as is reasonably required.</p> <p>Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged with the company's registered office at Leach Bright &amp; Partners, Connaught House, Alexandra Terrace, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3DA not later than 12 noon on 6 March 1997.</p> <p>BY ORDER OF THE BOARD R A BARNES Director Dated this 17 February 1997.</p>	<p>BROCKLEY LEISUREWEAR LIMITED NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at Connaught House, Alexandra Terrace, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3DA on 11 March 1997 at 10.15am for the purpose mentioned in the above notice. The Companies Act 1986, sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act, the appointment of a Liquidator and a Liquidation Committee. Mr J J Stubbins of Leach Bright &amp; Partners, Connaught House, Alexandra Terrace, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3DA is qualified to act as an Insolvency practitioner in relation to the company and will furnish creditors with such information concerning the company's affairs as is reasonably required.</p> <p>Proxies to be used at the meeting must be lodged with the company's registered office at Leach Bright &amp; Partners, Connaught House, Alexandra Terrace, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3DA not later than 12 noon on 6 March 1997.</p> <p>BY ORDER OF THE BOARD R A BARNES Director Dated this 17 February 1997.</p>

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## international

# £5m missile-defence study fails to take off

Christopher Bellamy  
Defence Correspondent

A £5m study into defences against ballistic missiles, completed last June, is still "on hold" in the run-up to the British general election because of uncertainties about a future government's attitude to anti-missile defences and inter-service rivalry within the Ministry of Defence.

Missile experts fear that having built up a momentum, and a recognition that missiles fired from third-world countries are a threat that European governments cannot ignore, future United Kingdom programmes

will be "at best, limited and half-hearted".

Last week Rolf Ekeus, a senior United Nations weapons inspector, warned that Iraq was still able to build missiles and engines which could hit Moscow, Rome and Paris and could almost reach London. While these missiles - re-engineered Scuds - are not in production, they are at an advanced prototype stage. In order to achieve greater range, the Iraqis have concentrated on small warheads, suitable for chemical and biological weapons, rather than high-explosive or nuclear warheads.

Such missiles would ideally be

destroyed before launch or in the boost phase as they climbed into space. But they could also be destroyed by a combination of airborne laser weapons - the United States hopes to field seven lasers in converted Boeing 747 aircraft by 2003, at a cost of £4bn, and point-defence missiles similar to the US Patriots used in the 1991 Gulf war.

Experts who have seen the highly classified pre-feasibility study say it is disappointing. It surveys the types of technology likely to be available in the next 10 years, and any likely threats, but adds little to what is known from open sources. It was commissioned in autumn 1994 and

carried out over an 18-month period by a consortium led by British Aerospace, with the help of US firms including Lockheed-Martin.

The study is still highly classified. The most positive reaction to the study occurred last October when Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, addressed the Belgian Royal Institute for International Affairs. "We need ballistic missile defence," he said, "and we need to develop it jointly in Nato, with Europeans and Americans deciding together how best to respond to threats to our shared security interests". Mr Portillo said that 20 coun-

tries outside Nato now had ballistic missiles and that some Nato territory was already within the arc of a threat from the Middle East. "The threat for our Nato allies may grow," he said, "and none of us will want to deploy forces within range of hostile ballistic missiles without affording them the best possible protection".

The speech was highly significant. Mr Portillo made the speech before the British Government officially announced any follow-up to the pre-feasibility study, but it would have required prime-ministerial approval. It suggests that the Government was preparing to

commit some of its scarce post-Cold War defence resources to ballistic missile defences.

Proponents of ballistic missile defence now fear the momentum has been lost. The House of Commons Defence Committee is of the view that there may be a missile threat to Britain in 10 years as well as to Nato states much closer to the Middle East and North Africa, and that work on defences should start now. The MoD's attitude is that there will not be a threat for 10 years, and that nothing therefore needs to be done.

A conference on ballistic missiles at the Royal United Services Institute (Rusi) in

Whitehall, scheduled for 15-16 March, has been postponed until September because the MoD and ministers have pulled out. The Rusi intends to hold the conference in September, with or without the MoD.

Roger Freeman, the former Armed Forces minister, said in 1995: "The threat comes from the Club Mad countries [in North Africa and the Middle East]. We have a 10-year window before the UK effectively could be targeted from the Mediterranean and the Gulf".

But a year and a half of that window has now elapsed and the delays to following up the study might cost another two.

Humphrey Crum Ewing, a former naval officer and now a research fellow in Strategic Studies at Lancaster University said the issue should be the subject of public debate.

"My view is that any change in government is unlikely to result in any difference in the substance of the policy. The policy will be to continue to take note," he said, "to watch to see what happens elsewhere and, in the meantime, to continue with a programme of low-profile, relatively low-cost activity."

"This means, I fear, that 'opinion' will result in UK programmes being, at best, limited and half-hearted".

## Mystery of the missing Mao tribute

Teresa Poole  
Peking

There was something missing as Li Peng, the Prime Minister, wound up his two-hour report at the weekend opening of China's annual parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC). As expected, he had peppered his speech with references to the greatness of the late Deng Xiaoping. He had made three references to President Jiang Zemin - one less than last year, but still a respectable demonstration of Mr Li's backing for Deng's chosen heir. But what about China's great revolutionary leader? For the first time anyone could remember, there was no mention of Mao Zedong. "Marxism-Leninism" had also hit the cutting-room floor.

Stock phrases are a fixed feature of Chinese political discourse. "Let's just say that Mao was not left out of the speech because someone forgot," a Western analyst in Peking said. In recent years, Mr Li has annually quoted Mao's dictum "let a hundred flowers blossom and a hundred schools of thought contend" in his NPC address. That, too, was dropped this time. In contrast, last year Mr



Central figure: President Jiang Zemin waiting for the National People's Congress to start in Peking yesterday

Photograph: AP/Bullit Marquez

Li even wound up his speech with yet another Mao quote.

China-watchers were perplexed by the absence of Mao. The best guess was that historic tribute was supposed to be focused just on Deng; the more

cynical pointed out that since the rest of the speech was all about still trying to undo the mess bequeathed by the Maoist central planning, perhaps China's leaders had realised that it was time to leave his name out.

In all other respects, Mr Li played it safe, firmly backing the Deng policies - "We should speed up reform" - and falling into line behind Mr Jiang as the "core" of the existing leadership in the post-Deng era.

Two other senior figures also publicly saluted Mr Jiang as the "core" over the weekend. Qiao Shi, the chairman of the NPC, and General Liu Huaqing, the most senior military figure in the party hierarchy. Support from

military figures is crucial for the President, and it was no surprise yesterday when it was announced that the defence budget will jump a solid 12.7 per cent this year, twice the expected rate of inflation.

## Zairean rebel leader warns of refugee crisis

Matthew Tostevin  
Reuters

Goma, Zaire - Laurent Kabila, the Zairean rebel leader, said yesterday that his forces had captured the strategic town of Lubutu and he appealed to the United Nations to help some 170,000 refugees trapped in the fighting.

Mr Kabila said his forces overran the makeshift Tingi Tingi refugee camp on Saturday, dislodging Rwandan and Burundian refugees who had fled fighting further east. There has been no independent confirmation of the claim.

"Many hundreds of refugees are coming and our men have been ordered not to harm them - the United Nations is invited to go to Tingi Tingi to help the refugees to return home and help repatriate them," Mr Kabila told a news conference in the eastern city of Goma. He suggested that aid agencies would be able to fly into Tingi Tingi immediately to encourage the refugees to return.

Aid workers who were evacuated on Saturday from Kisangani, Zaire's third-largest city, reported seeing tens of thousands of refugees at Tingi Tingi, 125 miles south-east, preparing to flee the rebel ad-

vance on Friday. Doctors said up to 40 refugees a day were dying of hunger and disease.

The Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (ADFL) controls most of eastern Zaire after launching a war in October to topple Mobutu Sese Seko, President of Zaire since 1965.

Mr Kabila said his troops captured Tingi Tingi and the strategically-important town of Lubutu nearby, together with its airstrip, after heavy fighting on Saturday afternoon in which one rebel and 25 Zairean soldiers were killed.

Lubutu, 125 miles south-east of Kisangani, is the last town on the road from Bukavu and boasts an airstrip. The rebel advance towards Kisangani threatens the integrity of the vast and mineral-rich country.

Mr Kabila said any ceasefire was ruled out before negotiations, adding that he refused to sign an agreement to end the fighting on a visit to South Africa last week - despite foreign diplomatic pressure to do so.

"The Alliance waits for an invitation saying that Mobutu has written to the organisers to say that he personally will negotiate. Only then will we negotiate," Mr Kabila said.

## Two tribes go to war over claims to Indian territory

A favourite story among the Navajo Indians tells of when an elderly shepherd from their tribe encountered United States astronauts training for a lunar landing. They asked if he had any message for the inhabitants of the Moon. "Be careful," he whispered into the offered tape recorder. "They will steal your land."

Since the Sixties, NASA staff have indeed conducted training exercises on the Navajo reservation, a huge expanse of desolate high desert in Arizona. And the land, and its ownership, is once again proving a deeply divisive issue.

About 250 Navajo families face eviction next month. They farm sheep in an area formally declared part of the Hopi Indian reservation, in a tangled border dispute between the two tribes and the US government dating back a century. Under a deal signed by President Bill Clinton last year, the families can stay if they sign 75-year leases with the Hopi by 31 March. But most have apparently refused, threatening Washington with the embarrassing spectacle of native

Americans being driven from their homes once again.

The rights and wrongs of this latest Indian skirmish are cloudy. Hopi leaders complain of "Navajo squatters", and say their patience is running out. Some Navajos have urged their fellow tribal members to "leave or leave". The Navajo Nation President, Albert Hale, first backed the settlement, but is wavering under charges of a sell-out. The Navajo Nation Council recently voted unanimously against it.

"How many times do you do wrong to people?" asked Mae Washington, a social worker at a Navajo boarding school in Tuba City, on the eastern half of the Navajo reservation. Her 62-year-old mother is among the hold-outs. For people such as Mrs Washington, the episode simply caps decades of mistreatment. She is going to sit there. They can throw her over the fence, and they can kill her.

My question is, is this America, is this where it is at?

Armed with a network of cell phones and an Internet site, Indian activists are encouraging volunteers to join the "resisters", as they are known. Several Europeans - including at least one Briton - have reportedly joined the Navajo families.

The roots of the dispute run back to 1882, 20 years after the US cavalry led by Kit Carson broke the Navajos with a bitter scorched-earth campaign, and eight years before the battle of Wounded Knee ended the Indian wars. US President Chester Arthur granted 2.4 million acres in northern Arizona to the Hopis and "other Indians". The Navajos became the dominant people on the land.

In 1974 the US Congress finally passed legislation to divide the reservation between the two tribes. The Navajos got the lion's share, with 110,000 people living on 26,000 square

miles today, as opposed to the Hopis' 10,000 members on 2,300 square miles. But in the last 20 years, more than 11,000 Navajos have been moved from Hopi land. While the US government paid more than \$300m to buy new homes and relocate them, many families failed to adapt, it is said. Allegedly, some lost their property because they failed to understand electricity bills and property taxes, others were given polluted land.

The 1,200 Navajos who have hung on say the leases would put their lives under control of outsiders, and accuse the Hopis of being chiefly interested in vast coal deposits said to lie below their ranches. Some have hinted at armed resistance.

The Navajo have a history as nomadic shepherds, and claim a spiritual relationship with the land. Mother Earth, they say, can be owned by no one. The Hopi are traditionally a more settled people. "Many people come around and tell us to go, but we say no," Alvin Clinton, a Navajo medicine man, told the *Gallop Independent*, a local newspaper. "We stay here because this is our way of life."

## Latin America pours scorn on US drug producing league

Phil Davison  
Mexico City

Will it turn out to be United States Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's first big faux pas?

At the weekend, she told President Bill Clinton that Mexico was doing enough against drugs to be "certified" as a US ally. Colombia, on the other hand, was not and should be sanctioned, she argued.

The White House finally announced its annual version of the international narcotics Oscars and Wooden Spoons, appraising drug producing or trafficking countries for the past year in accordance with US law.

As always, the US itself, the world's biggest consumer of illegal narcotics and a major marijuana producer, had not been nominated and therefore received neither reward nor scolding.

The Colombian government was furious. It threatened reprisals against US interests if economic sanctions against Colombia were introduced.

Orlando Obregon, the Colombian labour minister, accused US government officials of being "so high on marijuana that they cannot see straight". Mexicans, far from expressing relief, slammed the whole process of "certification" as an unwarranted intrusion by the

US in Mexican affairs.

In short, for the first time, to both winners and losers alike, the annual "certification" process was unmasked as an anachronistic fiasco.

Even straight-thinking Americans appeared to be in agreement that the US simply ended up looking stupid, and that Mrs Albright would have been better served by suggesting the abolition of the certification system. It is doubtful whether it will survive another year.

"A sham... a bizarre display of illogic - not credible, not transparent and not fair," said the *Miami Herald*, a close Latin America-watcher, in an editorial.

"The whole process reeks of high-handed, imperious injustice, unworthy of a nation - such as the United States - of strongly egalitarian traditions," said the *Mexico City Times*.

Why did Mexico win Mrs Albright's favour? The fact that the Mexican peso had plunged in advance of the US decision was a major factor, most analysts agreed. The peso rallied after the country got a positive grade.

Ensuing anti-US sentiment would have jeopardised Mr Clinton's planned visit to Mexico next month. In addition, the Mexican government had threatened to kick-out American DEA agents if certification had been rejected.

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Divided land: Protesting farmers driving tractors past the nuclear storage depot of Gorleben in northern Germany yesterday. The placard on the leading vehicle attacks southern farmers for enjoying the benefits of nuclear power and then dumping their waste in the north. Photograph: Reuters

## Nuclear train on course for collision

Imre Karacs  
Bonn

A train laden with nuclear waste is expected to begin the final leg of its journey today along railway lines flanked by 30,000 police officers and border guards, to a burial site in northern Germany ringed by an equal number of militant environmentalists.

A violent confrontation between the two forces appears inevitable. Defying a ban on demonstrations along the tracks, protesters are bent on disrupt-

ing the most sensitive stage in the complex operation: the moment when the six highly radioactive containers are loaded on to trucks in the small town of Dannenberg to be transported by road to the Gorleben storage depot 12 miles away. Gorleben has been the focus of anti-nuclear protests for several years, but this year's battle will be costlier than previous ones, and will involve larger numbers on both sides. The biggest security sweep since the war, featuring riot police, helicopters, water cannons and a

tank, will cost taxpayers about DM100m (£36m), adding a hefty premium to the already high price of atomic power. Gorleben is one of the few places in Germany where radioactive waste can be stored in the "medium term" - a few decades. Others have been vetoed by campaigners and plans for re-processing plants scrapped. The train arriving this week will be carrying six containers - "Castors" - of spent and re-processed fuel, still heated to temperatures of several hundred degrees by the ongoing fis-

sion. Even the forces of law and order have not been convinced of official assurances that the "Castors" are safe. The police officers' trade union has demanded Geiger counters for all members involved in the security operation. After recent demonstrations in the region militants from all over the country will join locals as the train approaches.

Another donor, whose business often involved dealings with the federal government, described the process as "like a shake-down" and "very awkward," coming as it did from a vice-president with unusual influence inside the Administration. In a third case, a Texas telecommunications firm was pressed into giving \$100,000 to the Democrats, after help from the Administration in winning

## Nice Al Gore a 'money-raising bulldozer'

Rupert Cornwell  
Washington

Vice-President Al Gore has been sucked into the vortex of the great Democratic fundraising scandal, with a highly detailed report in yesterday's *Washington Post* that portrays him as the cold-blooded "solicitor-in-chief" of money to finance the party's 1996 election campaign.

"Revolution" was the description by one donor of Mr Gore's *modus operandi*, after he had been pressured by the vice-president, who told him he had been given the job by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) of raising \$2m (£1.2m) in a single week. "You're on my list," Mr Gore told his prey, who eventually came up with a cheque for \$100,000.

Another donor, whose business often involved dealings with the federal government, described the process as "like a shake-down" and "very awkward," coming as it did from a vice-president with unusual influence inside the Administration. In a third case, a Texas telecommunications firm was pressed into giving \$100,000 to the Democrats, after help from the Administration in winning

a \$36m order from Mexico. Mr Gore personally called to thank its chief executive.

In all, according to the *Post*, Mr Gore and his aides were directly involved in raising \$40m of the \$180m gathered by the (DNC) in 1995 and 1996 - most of it so-called "soft money", subject to no limits, which theoretically goes to help the party organisation, and not specific candidates.

The allegations, coming after the fuss over overnights at the Lincoln Bedroom in the White House, and announcement by the DNC that it was returning a further \$1.5m of tainted donations, are a further embarrassment for the party, which this weekend also released a 1995 memo detailing how access to President Clinton, in the shape of trips on Air Force One, golf games, White House coffee sessions and the like should be parlayed into extra money for its coffers. But they are also a setback for the unacknowledged political ambitions of Mr Gore.

Despite his much-mocked attendance at a fundraiser at a Los Angeles Buddhist temple last April, Mr Gore has managed to project himself as clean-handed statesman while shameless money-grubbing ran amok around

him. Mr Clinton might be tacky and loose-principled, the conventional wisdom ran - but not his vice-president, upright to the point of woodenness.

That impression must now be revised. If the *Post* report's author - Bob Woodward of Watergate fame - is to be believed, Mr Gore was a money-raising bulldozer, extracting contributions with a heavyhandedness bordering on cruelty.

The legality or otherwise of what he did will technically hinge on whether as second-ranking figure in the executive branch, he mixed fundraising with government business. Certainly no vice-president, Democrat or Republican, has ever played so extensive and frontal a role in his party's fundraising - and as Mr Gore limbers up for a White House run of his own in 2000, his prowess may prove a two-edged sword.

If disgust at the way sordid fashion politics is financed in the US takes real hold, and if either Congress or an independent counsel take serious aim at the issue, then Mr Gore's coast-to-coast fundraising network could be less blessing than curse.

For almost the first time in Washington's fringe wars, Mr Gore has come out a loser.

## EU faces testing time over global warming

Nicholas Schoon  
Environment Correspondent

Europe's high-minded bid to save the world from global warming faces its most severe test today when environment ministers from the 15 European Union states meet in Brussels. The Union is united in believing it should set the pace among all industrialised nations in cutting emissions of climate-changing greenhouse gases, which come from burning coal, oil and gas. But when it comes to deciding the cut that each individual EU state should make, the squabbling begins.

The Dutch presidency has come up with a complex "burden-sharing" system which proposes maximum annual emissions of carbon dioxide, the most important greenhouse gas, for each EU state. The poorer Mediterranean countries with

relatively low use of fossil fuels are allowed to increase their emissions between 2000 and 2010 as they industrialise. Portugal is allowed the biggest gain - a whopping 25 per cent. But Germany is ordered to cut its carbon-dioxide output by 30 per cent, Denmark by 25 per cent and the United Kingdom by 20 per cent under the proposal which is based largely on a formula which folds in each country's wealth, industrial structure and energy use. The output for each country was given some further political tweaking. Nine out of the 15 EU states have refused to accept their proposed allocation of carbon-dioxide emissions. The Dutch awarded themselves a 10 per cent cut between 2000 and 2010. "The majority feeling is that if anyone got off lightly, the Dutch did," said one British negotiator. Today, European environ-

ment ministers will try to break the impasse. Other rich countries round the world will be watching, because for years Europe has forced their pace on tackling the threat of man-made climate change and rising sea levels. The members of OECD, the wealthy club of industrialised nations, have promised to curb their rising emissions in the first decades of the next century. At the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 they promised to stabilise emissions at the 1990 level by 2000, but most of them are set to break that promise. The EU ministers are under great pressure to reach an agreement because there are Climate Treaty negotiations involving more than 100 nations in Bonn this week. If the European bloc cannot make up its mind about its own stance then the global talks in Germany will drift towards inaction.

## France teeters on brink of recovery

John Lichfield  
Paris

Is the French economy about to rise from its sick-bed and walk? Upon the answer depends the outcome of several of the great political issues of the next 18 months.

The launch date of the European single currency, efforts to check the advance of the ultra-right Front National in France, the chances of Alain Juppé's centre-right government surviving the parliamentary elections next March. They all turn, directly or indirectly, on the performance of the French economy.

A week or so ago, it seemed that France - despite the persistent, almost psychotic gloom of public opinion - had every reason to look forward to 1997. Exports were breaking all records; the franc had fallen steadily to a much more tolerable position against the dollar; there were the first signs of a fall in unemployment in December. Mr Juppé's government was said to be ready to scrap its prediction of modest 2.3 per cent growth this year (the very minimum needed to meet the targets for the single currency) and bet on a modestly higher figure. A series of disappointing numbers at the end of last week passed a shadow over this sunny outlook. The total of French unemployed rose marginally in January, remaining

stuck in percentage terms at a politically disastrous 12.7 per cent (almost double Britain's). Growth stumbled in the last quarter of last year to produce an anaemic final performance for 1996: 1.3 per cent, compared with an estimated 2.4 per cent in Britain.

The one seemingly unclouded beacon of hope is the country's extraordinary trade performance. Even with an unfavourable dollar-franc exchange rate for much of 1996,

France had a record trade surplus of £13.5bn last year. With luxury goods and quality farm produce, especially cheese, leading the way, there is every reason to expect a continuing trade boom in 1997.

Predictions of a solid French recovery depend on it. The small print of last week's figures showed that French consumers

were still not spending (they remain depressed by 1985 tax rises and unemployment) and that French industry was still not investing generously in itself.

Hopes of faster growth this year rely on the trade surplus reversing this vicious circle and boosting consumer demand for French goods in France. A sharp rise in business confidence this month suggests this may be happening. A majority of French economic analysts believe the underlying trends suggest a solid recovery. Most French banks are said to be ready to revise upwards their growth predictions for 1997.

The main threat may be the almost complete absence of Le Pen's Good Factor. The former French prime minister, Edouard Balladur, in a mainly optimistic essay in this week's *Economist*, says the stubbornly high levels of unemployment are the main source of gloom. "In that balance between 'fear of falling' and 'hope of rising' which Tocqueville saw as the driving force of free societies," he wrote, "fear of falling is now carrying the day - and is paralysing French society."

More must be done to reduce taxation and the huge burden of social costs on French industry, he said. But he also predicted that the reduction in budget deficits, low interest rates, the steadiness of the franc against the German mark, and its fall against the dollar, were ready to reap their rewards.

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## arts

An inheritance  
worth  
fighting over

## THEATRE

## Inheritors

The Orange Tree,  
London

The passionate tale of a radical young woman flying in the face of her family, fighting racism and willing to risk imprisonment for her radical beliefs sounds suspiciously like a bio-play based on Vanessa Redgrave. In fact, Susan Glaspell's remarkable play was written before Redgrave was born. These days, American politics is simply: you're either right wing, or very right wing. Discovering a play from 1921 pitting revolutionary progress against the ties that bind is quite shocking. Marlon Brando tried to raise the plight of native Americans by sending Sachin Littlefeather (actually a two-bit actress and former Miss American Vampire) up the steps of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion when he refused the Oscar for *The Godfather*. Glaspell not only beat him by 30 years, she came up with more dramatic arguments.

The major problem with *Inheritors*, and the probable reason for its neglect, is the slowness with which it yields up its considerable strengths. Act 1 takes place on a farm in Illinois in 1879, 12 years after the Civil War. Glaspell begins upsetting expectations with the reactions of three conflicting generations to what should happen to their land. At the centre is Silas Morton, a doughty pioneer farmer who looks out to the hill beyond their home and has a vision of using the land they have "stolen from the Indians" to found a college. He wants to give something back and fervently believes that education should be for everyone. There's the undeniable passion here, but nothing can disguise the fact that this is only intermittently well-dressed exposition. Act 2, set 40 years later, is predicated on an understanding of all these carefully raised issues, but you wish that Glaspell were around to brandish the blue pencil.

Forty years on, the successful college is now a reality but times have changed. Felix, the son of a Hungarian exile who was Silas's closest friend, is a banker who runs the college and finds himself at odds with the local senator who controls its funding. The senator is applying the thumb screws over the "radical" activities of one of the staff members and Felix is the first of several characters to find himself trapped between idealism and expediency.

Until the arrival of Felix's naïve niece Madeline, who is also Silas's granddaughter, the rather plodding production feels as if it is sagging beneath the weight of Glaspell's good intentions, but suddenly the temperature begins to rise. Wide-eyed and fiercely determined, Lisé Stevenson gives a strikingly unadorned performance as a young woman forced to recognise the consequences of leaping to the defence of a group of Hindu students and assaulting a police officer. In a gripping series of dialogue scenes, members of her family and friends pile on the emotional (and dramatic) pressure trying to persuade her to understand the need for compromise. Will she ruin her life rather than use family connections to save herself? Is it worth destroying one's family to pursue revolutionary ideals? Glaspell writes powerfully convincing arguments for both sides with the result that you can second-guess neither Madeline's response nor the climax.

Sam Walters's direction is a touch wobbly, occasionally admitting an unnecessary earnestness into the proceedings, but the writing carries you through. Once again, he and the Orange Tree have unearthed a fascinating play. Full of sound and fury, it signifies a great deal.

To 5 April. Booking: 0181-940 3633

David Benedict



Francis Matthews as Felix and Lisé Stevenson as Madeline in Susan Glaspell's slow-building 'Inheritors'. Photograph: Paul Thompson

Thanks to the embrace of the BBC's *Sounding the Century* series, Michael Tilson Thomas and the LSO's three-concert "domestic" Debussy festival at the Barbican, *Painter of Dreams*, has been shimmering across the airwaves – the first and last concerts were relayed live on Radio 3, the second will be broadcast next Monday – surely establishing something of a record for the number of people listening to this composer at any one time.

The two concerts I attended – the second (on Sun 23 Feb) and the third (last Thursday) – were both packed, suggesting that interest in Debussy, that oh-so-private composer, is surprisingly large. One-composer festivals are currently all the rage – Schubert, Brahms, Stravinsky – and now Debussy. Historical context may be lacking but, as with the LSO's splendid offering, some wilder shores can be explored.

Both these concerts included real rarities – interestingly enough, all of them under the guise of "incidental" music. Debussy's *Le Jardin de Saint Sébastien*, on the Sunday, was given an exceptionally rare outing. This music for soloists, chorus and orchestra was originally written to accompany a lavish mystery by Gabriele d'Annunzio, a five-act extravaganza lasting five hours and involving the dancer Ida Rubinstein, the choreogra-

pher Michel Fokine, and the painter Léon Bakst. Its premiere, in Paris in May 1911, was not a success and a reduced version, with linking narration, was devised for concert use. The LSO's performance revealed a bleeding hulk with some of Debussy's most ravishingly beautiful music. What with spears and wounds, the aura of *Parsifal* hung heavily over proceedings, but the obvious homoerotic angle on the story seemed strangely muted by the use of a woman narrator, for it's "she" that plays Sébastien, who's mistaken for Adonis and loved by Caesar. Leslie Caron, in rather over-dramatic form (nastily amplified), boomed her way through. Paula Almerces coped with some stratospherically high vocal writing as the Virgin Erigone, Vox Sola and Soul of Sébastien, even if her vibrato was wide. Jacqueline Mura and Anne Larsson

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Annette Morreau

## The name of progress

William Hogarth's subversive nature helped produce engravings that captured the foibles of his age, but it also hindered his grander ambitions as a painter. On the eve of an exhibition commemorating his tercentenary, **Andrew Graham-Dixon** assesses the artist's legacy



'The Painter and his Pug', 1745: 'He was, in many ways, a man divided against himself' Photo courtesy of the Tate

on the edge of slapstick or melodrama. The Rake, vainly shaking his fist at the fates in Bedlam, is clearly not a real lunatic but a stage madman. Hogarth's interiors (and most of his scenes are set indoors) often look like stage sets. This is not necessarily a failing, theatre being an appropriate metaphor for his black view of life itself as a kind of theatrical imposture, each person acting the person they would like to be, trapped by an unrealistic fantasy.

Hogarth's own unrealisable fantasy was the dream that he might one day be recognised as a history painter: a painter of high rather than low subjects, a master of the sublime instead of the ridiculous. It was a dream he conceived as a young man, when he went to see Sir James Thornhill's enormous, if somewhat grandiose, painting on the ceiling of Greenwich Naval Hospital – then the most ambitious exercise in narrative art ever carried out by an Englishman.

The desire to create something to rival it stayed with Hogarth throughout his life. It prompted him, once he had started his own business as an engraver, to broaden his horizons by enrolling in Thornhill's art academy, where he first learned to paint: and it must have had at least something to do with his decision to pursue and marry Thornhill's daughter, Jane, thus making the artist whom he wished above all others to emulate into, so to speak, his father.

It was evident to everyone except Hogarth that he was temperamentally incapable of painting solemn narrative works. His efforts in this genre amount to a gallery of almost unknown Hogarths: *The Pool of Bethesda* and *The Good Samaritan*, for St Bartholomew's Hospital; *Moses Brought Before Cleopatra*, for the Foundling Hospital; and *Signorunda*, his last painting in the tragic vein, which so disgusted Lord Grosvenor, who commissioned it, that he told the artist he could not bear to keep it in his house.

This last episode seems almost to have broken Hogarth's spirit, plunging him into illness and depression for more than a year; the final disappointment of his ambition to be taken seriously, it accounts for the unrelieved bleakness of those late prints, *The Cockpit* and *The Bathos*. In these works, the expression of his final disenchantment, both with himself and the world, Hogarth did actually achieve something like the grandeur he dreamed of creating in his histories – a new form of satire so extreme it has turned into something else, a negative sublime that anticipates the brilliant, troubled graphic work of Goya.

Hogarth's greatest gift was his ability to mimic and mock the established genres and conventions of art – to subvert them from within and to produce, as a result, something entirely his own. This is evidently true of the *Progresses*, which are deliberate low-life parodies of high narrative art. This same spirit of parody hovers behind everything that Hogarth ever

touched, as if the spirit of subversiveness was so strong in him that he couldn't resist falling into pastiche even when it was not quite appropriate. It explains the disastrous weakness of his history paintings – despite himself, Hogarth has made them look mock-serious, his Cleopatra a fishwife, his Saint Paul a London streetcrier.

Something similar, albeit in a less obvious form, also accounts for Hogarth's tremendous originality as a painter of portraits – the most underrated aspect of his oeuvre. There is something unruly even in his quietest group portraits, like the wonderful *Graham Children* – where the mannequin stillness of that most stultifying form of Georgian painting, the conversation piece, has been disrupted by a powerful, turbulent sense of life. While the children smile and play, the cat is about to kill the goldfish in its cage. This mood of perpetual uneasiness is perhaps the most quintessentially Hogarthian aspect of Hogarth's art.

One of the saddest aspects of his career is the fact that he himself seems to have considered his most original invention, the "Modern Moral Subject", as he called the "Progresses" and *Marriage à la Mode*, as a bit of a music-hall turn designed to exploit a new-found middle-class market; a debased form of the grand narrative, one that he really wanted to practice. He was, in many ways, a man divided against himself, and there were several other aspects of Hogarth's art which Hogarth himself did not fully value. He was capable of extreme sensuality, as the *Striptease Girl*, perhaps the most popular of his works, more than adequately proves – but she represents almost the only passage of entirely unmoralised and unjustified beauty he ever allowed himself to paint. It is as if Hogarth, who started his life as an engraver, distrusted his own abilities, as a painter, to create such beautiful phantoms – the puritanical side of his nature hated the idea of art that was merely lovely, rather than useful.

The most important part of his legacy lay not, perhaps, in any specific aspect of his oeuvre, whether as painter or printmaker, but in what he was. In Britain, until the mid-18th century, nearly every artist had been resigned if not reconciled to the role of a rich man's hireling. But Hogarth was one of the first British artists to earn his own living in his own way, to form a career independent of the patronage of the wealthy. His moral example was of incalculable importance to the generations of artists who came immediately after him. Looking at the most famous of his self-portraits, the *Self-Portrait with Pug*, we see that a new spirit entered art in Britain with the arrival of Hogarth – a new pride, a new sense of what an artist might amount to and, indeed, of what art itself might be.

When Hogarth died, he was writing his autobiography. He never finished it, but he did complete the dedication. It sums up his truculent, determined spirit of independence. He called it "The No Dedication" and it may stand as his epitaph: "Not dedicated to any Prince, in Christendom for fear it might be thought a Bold piece of arrogance."

Not dedicated to any man of quality for fear it might be thought too affecting. Not dedicated to any learned body of either of the universities, or the Royal Society, for fear it might be thought

An uncommon piece of vanity. Nor dedicated to any particular friend for fear of offending another. Therefore dedicated to nobody. But if for once we may suppose Nobody to be everybody as everybody is often found to be nobody, then is this work Dedicated to anybody

By their most humble and devoted, W. Hogarth."

*Hogarth the Painter opens tomorrow at the Tate Gallery, London, 5871 (0171-587 8000), to 8 June. Andrew Graham-Dixon is presenting BBC2's tercentenary tribute to William Hogarth, due to be screened in April.*

## CLASSICAL

Debussy: Painter of  
DreamsBarbican Hall,  
London / Radio 3

plier Michel Fokine, and the painter Léon Bakst. Its premiere, in Paris in May 1911, was not a success and a reduced version, with linking narration, was devised for concert use. The LSO's performance revealed a bleeding hulk with some of Debussy's most ravishingly beautiful music. What with spears and wounds, the aura of *Parsifal* hung heavily over proceedings, but the obvious homoerotic angle on the story seemed strangely muted by the use of a woman narrator, for it's "she" that plays Sébastien, who's mistaken for Adonis and loved by Caesar. Leslie Caron, in rather over-dramatic form (nastily amplified), boomed her way through. Paula Almerces coped with some stratospherically high vocal writing as the Virgin Erigone, Vox Sola and Soul of Sébastien, even if her vibrato was wide. Jacqueline Mura and Anne Larsson

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Annette Morreau

Think "Glyndebourne" and you think well-heeled riff-raff, champagne in the gardens. Only then do you think about opera.

Well, there were no picnicers at Glyndebourne last weekend, and the operagoers had an altogether different way about them: much noisier, for a start, much less likely to elbow you out of the queue for interval drinks.

For this was the first time that Glyndebourne Education had presented a project (here involving professional singers alongside performers from schools and colleges) on the Glyndebourne stage and the presence of dozens upon dozens of children on-stage was naturally acclaimed by hundreds more in the auditorium. Very well-behaved they were too, on both sides of the proscenium. What brought them there was *Misner*, an opera by composer Stephen Lunn and librettist Stephen Plalce, developed through edu-

OPERA  
Misner Glyndebourne

cational workshops in collaboration with director Stephen Langridge and designer Alison Chitty.

The idea was to involve the students (age range about eight to 16) in the conception of the piece so that they would recognise it as, in some degree, their opera about the world. So it is that we had playground bullies and nascent sexuality, casual vandalism and nimbler coppers. All very realistic, all very credible, and rendered operatic through two rather more fantastic plot elements. One concerned a 12th-century Chinese scribe who becomes the missing person of the title when he travels to the 20th-century to befriend dreamy loner Frank (John Berry). The other saw the intervention of Vicky Phoenix, a character from an occultish TV series called *Phoenix Files* who helps heroine Julie (Gemma Ticehurst) when things get tough.

The fantasy element yielded a wonderfully zany showpiece in the Chinese Emperor's library where boring books clamoured for the tiny Emperor's attention; while the scene in which Julie seeks help from her favourite TV character was touching and amusing, and, in a duet for the two of them, gave Julie her best music. It would be misleading to say that the professionals (including Omar Ebrahim as Misner and Melanie Pappenheim as Vicky Phoenix) didn't occasionally upstage the younger singers, who weren't always helped by erratic amplification, but the divisions weren't too damaging.

John Lunn's music was rasping and brassy, lots of thumping timpani and pseudo-oriental percussion (the East Sussex Academy of Music Youth Orchestra, conducted by Andrea Quinn). If vocal lines for the grown-ups were more declamatory than lyrical, the kids got something lighter, more show tunes than rock or pop. Occasionally something more abrasive wouldn't have gone amiss, but as bullying Frank, Ben Davies got real aggression into his rant of "Stick, stick, stick the rules to ya: one day soon I'll get even with school."

Conventional criteria are, at best, secondary with projects like this, but *Misner* was a genuine show, staged with wit and performed with gusto. We may, or may not, have been watching the stars of tomorrow; what matters is that, through four performances, these young singers became stars today.

Nick Kimberley

Tomorrow in the Tabloid: John Windsor on the dog that chews in the name of art. Plus Network+ the computer and IT section

سكنا من الواصل



## Interview



Deborah Ross  
talks to  
**DEEPAK CHOPRA**

**D**eepak Chopra—MD, author, spiritual guru to the Hollywood A-list and huge fan of the Duchess of York ("so spunky", he gasps admiringly)—is never out of the American non-fiction bestseller charts these days.

In terms of sales, it's a struggle to think of anyone comparable over here. Unless, of course, you count Delia Smith which, naturally, makes you wonder about the difference between our two cultures. When the British sense an emptiness in their lives, do they sidestep the search for spiritual fulfilment and deeper truths in favour of a hearty portion of Delia's bread and butter pudding? (Butter one side of the bread, then marmalade the other, and very sustaining it is, too.)

"Delia who?" Chopra inquires, his thick eyebrows arching into hairy spootrophes. She's a cook, you explain.

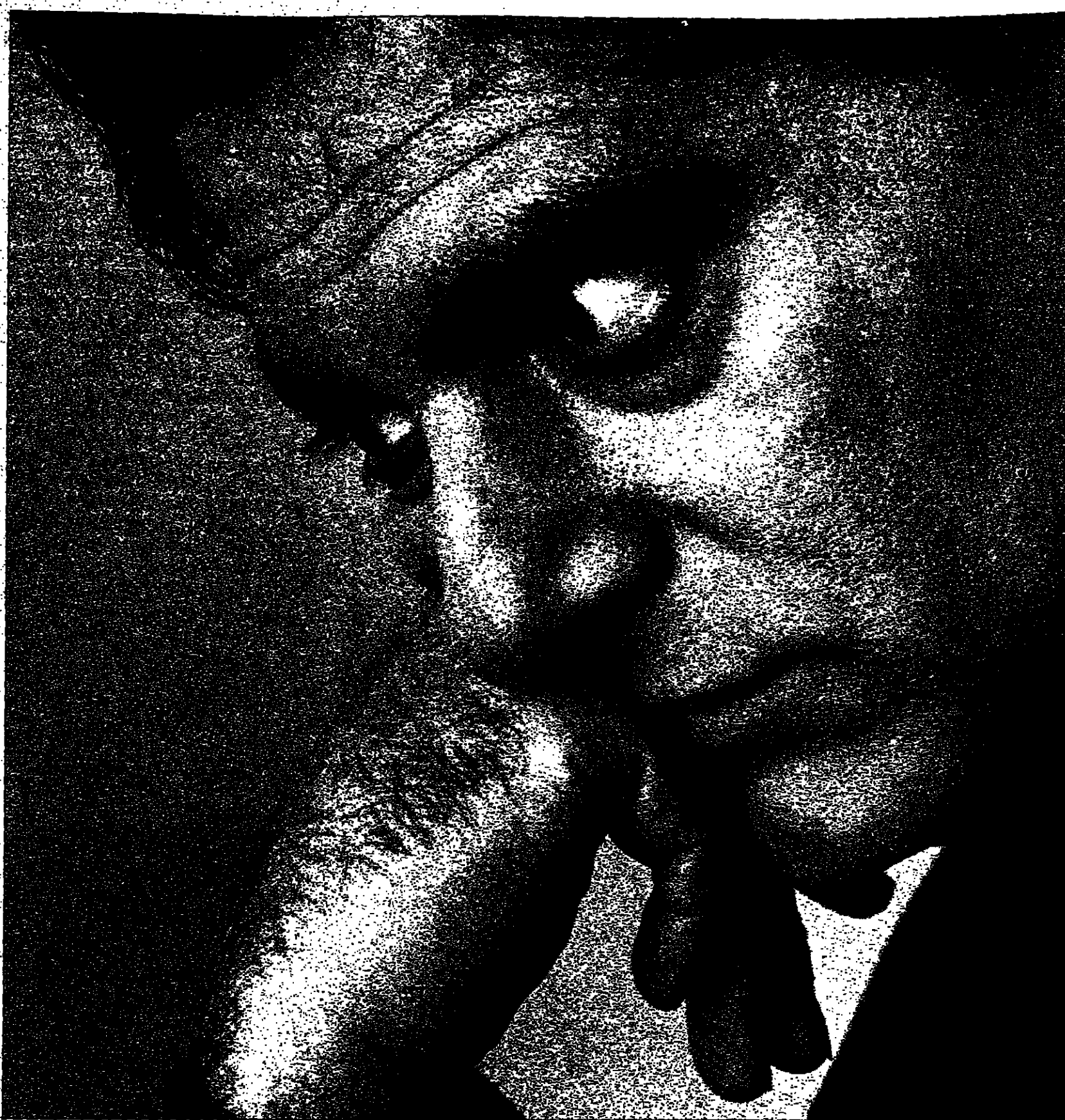
"Oh," he says, as enlightenment spreads across his chunky, freckle-eyed, rather prominent-nosed face. "I see." But then, with some exasperation, he adds: "The one thing I have never understood about you British is your obsession with cookery. And gardening. And pets."

He shakes his lustrously thick, black hairdo disappointedly. Oh dear, you commiserate, we are rather hopeless on the self-improvement, self-discovery front, aren't we? Complete non-starters, even. But he won't go quite as far as that. "Actually," he says, brightening considerably, "I think the British are more interested in what I do than the Americans, but they just won't admit it..." He then chorales jovially. As he can well afford to do.

Since his first book, which he published himself for \$5,000 a decade ago, Deepak Chopra has become, if not the rock star of the new spirituality, then at least the Andrew Lloyd Webber. There's nothing particularly new about anything he says. Indeed, a lot of it may even be rubbish. But, good heavens, it seems to be catchy, hummable stuff. And if Chopra isn't currently playing in every capital in the world, he very soon will be.

At the last count, his 15 books had sold more than six million copies and been translated into 25 languages. He is in huge demand on the lecture circuit where he can talk for hours without recourse to notes and is always rapturously received. His apostles include Demi Moore, Michael Jackson, Dave Stewart, Elizabeth Taylor, Donna Karan, Hillary Clinton and even Prince Charles, who last year invited him to a meeting of GPs and academics to discuss ways of integrating "non-traditional forms of healing into the Western scientific framework."

It was a formal do, and he didn't get to talk to Charles in any depth, "but he did make one telling remark." Ohhh, pass it on, you urge. "He said: 'When I talk to the architects, the doctors call and go mad. And when I talk to the doctors, the architects call and go mad.' Sorry, could you repeat that?" Chopra does. But, frankly, it doesn't make any more sense the second time around. Not that I say so. Chopra now has a very knowing look on his face, and I don't want to appear sensationally thick. So, instead, I say: "What a brilliant remark!" And look very knowing, too.



The mystic who made millions: there is nothing freaky about Deepak Chopra ... he does not fall on his knees and chant 'mishmishmoo' Glyn Griffiths

## A rich source of enlightenment

Chopra doesn't just deal with the affluent, as he is at pains to point out. Poor people are fine too—and, recently, "I even did a series of public television in America." As it really, baggage handlers come up to him at airports and say: "Hey, I saw you on telly. And what you said was really deep, man." But is it?

What he is selling is a version of the ancient Hindu system of Ayurvedic medicine topped up with liberal portions of Western philosophy ("I've read Bertrand Russell"), existential reflection and empowering rhetoric of the "love can inspire us with its power" sort. If you want to be rich, read *Creative Affluence* or *The Seven Spiritual Laws of Success*. If you want to be slim, read *The Perfect Weight*. If you want to live to 130, then go for *Ageless Body, Timeless Mind*. And if you want to "rediscover the love we long for, one which is rich and meaningful, satisfying and lasting", then read *The Path To Love* (Rider Books, £9.99) which only came out here last week but has already entered a second print run, the first run of 25,000 having sold out. Or so the publishers say.

(With Fergie moving back in with Andrew, could she have bought the lot?)

Anyway, he is in London to promote the book. And I don't think anyone could accuse Chopra of being lax on the self-promotion front. When you first speak to the publishers, they say they can only squeeze you in after G.L.R., the BBC World Service, branches of Waterstones, and every TV chat show you have heard of plus one you haven't which is apparently hosted by Selma Scott. "Oh yes, Deepak will be doing Selma," his publishers gush excitedly. Gosh, doing Selma, that's every man's fantasy, isn't it?

"Mr Chopra is not like that," they curtsy reply. But he'll be worn out by the time he gets to me, won't he?

He may be tired physically, but not spiritually, they assure you. You meet him at his hotel, the £250-a-night St James's Court, just round the corner from Buckingham Palace. When he first enters the room, you are looking out of the window and he rather creeps up on you from behind, so to speak. Certainly,

you do not hear him come in. But then he wears the sort of soft leather shoes that just whisper expensively across carpets.

There is nothing freaky or scary about either his dress or behaviour. He has taken hippiedom and transformed it into yuppieidom. There are no flowing robes, no open-toed sandals. He does not, at any point, fall on his knees and chant "mishmishmoo" while clanging handbells and lighting thin sticks of smelly things.

Instead, he is wearing a deep grey polo shirt offset by a paler grey suit. Nice suit, you say. "It was a gift," he says. From whom, you ask. "Oh, just Donna Karan." And his fingernails! So beautifully manicured and buffed that they catch the light like tiddlywink-shaped slivers of pearl. Are you vain, you ask him. "No, no, no... not at all," he protests. You like good clothes though. Yes, he concedes, a little sheepishly. "I do like good clothes."

Certainly, he is very rich, has made pots and pots of money. But how much exactly?

"I've spent \$15m in the last three or

four years, so I must have earned at least that much," he states matter-of-factly. Fifteen million, you gasp. "I charge \$25,000 per lecture," he reports with considerably more glee.

But isn't there something rather immoral about making so much money at the expense of people who might be rather lost? No, he insists, there is not. Much of his money comes from his books — "I've seen people fighting over them on the streets of Colombia," he boasts — and as a bestselling writer why shouldn't he cash in on his success? "Does John Grisham have to defend what he does?"

No, but he's doing something rather different, isn't he? Mr Chopra thinks not. But then quickly adds: "I do as much as I can for charity."

But what has he spent this \$15m on? Nice suits? Some, one assumes, haven't been gifts from Donna. Or has it been nice cars, nice houses and expensive bangles for the wife?

No, he insists, you are wrong on most counts. He has sunk most of the money into the deliciously-named Chopra

Center for Well Being and Infinite Possibilities which he opened a couple of years ago in La Jolla, California, and which charges \$3,000 for a five-day stay. Yes, his house in La Jolla is a big one on the beach from which, every morning, he can "walk to the ocean to watch the dolphins play". But, no, he doesn't have an ostentatious lifestyle. He goes skiing every winter, and scuba-diving each summer. And, yes, he does drive a big swanky Range Rover but only because he has to. "My wife insists upon it. I am a terrible driver. I think of other things when I should be watching the road. My wife thinks I will be safer in a Range Rover."

He was born in the Punjab to a cardiologist father who worked for the British Army and, at one time, was Lord and Lady Mountbatten's ADC. "Oh yes, my father worked for many famous people," Deepa himself didn't initially want to be a doctor. He wanted to be a journalist. He was a voracious, precocious reader. He had read all of Kipling, Conan Doyle, Dickens and Tennyson by the time he was 12. Plus, he had an uncle who was a journalist and didn't seem to do much beyond sit in coffee bars arguing heatedly with all his smart friends. That's the life, he thought.

However, his father very much wanted his son to be a doctor. He studied medicine at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences where he met Rita, his wife of 25 years. She was the niece of a patient of his. On their first date he took her to the movies on his Lambretta. "Do you like the Beatles?" she asked as they settled into their seats. And he had to confess: "I'd never even heard of them." He was, you gather from this, a very committed student.

Anyway, in 1970, Deepak and his new bride decided to go to America. Because of the Vietnam war, there was a shortage of doctors, "and we were offered free tickets and everything". He specialised as an endocrinologist and was, he says, a very good doctor.

But he quickly became disillusioned with conventional medicine. He could not, he says, cope with the emotional detachment required.

Eventually, he started reading up on Indian mysticism. Then he bought a book on transcendental meditation. Then he met the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, sometime guru to The Beatles, at a Washington function and was smitten. Soon after, he quit his hospital job to serve as the Maharishi's US ambassador and salesman. This he did until 1993, when the two fell out because Chopra wanted to go down a more commercial route. So he did. And he hasn't looked back since.

How, though, did he build up his celebrity clientele?

Does Michael Jackson just phone you up one day and say, "Hey, I'm in a spot of bother, and you might be just the guy to sort it out."

Apparently not. It works like this: "Ten years ago George Harrison contacted me. Now, I didn't care two hoots about him being famous, but we met, and liked each other and he became a friend. Then, he mentioned me to Dave Stewart... Celebrities mix with other celebrities. They are like people who drink in the same pub." Although in this instance "they are all drinking in the bar of spiritual interest."

Does he enjoy being a celebrity himself, you wonder. Oh no, he says, it is very inconvenient. People in public toilets turn to look at him, and sometimes he gets their pee down his Donna Karan. But, that said, he is "flattered by all the attention". And he does very much enjoy the lecturing. "The energy that comes out is just unbelievable," he bows excitedly.

Now, I don't know if Deepak Chopra does it for you. Maybe he does. But he doesn't do it for me. No matter how hard I try to meditate, and "make my heart a space filled with light", nothing happens. But when I tell Chopra this, he doesn't seem much bothered. "It doesn't work for everyone," he shrugs.

Not like Delia's bread and butter pudding. Which always hits the spot.

## Why won't you tell me about tampons, Mummy?

Mothers and daughters are still too embarrassed to discuss their periods, says **Caroline Millar**



In it together: Ann Dempsey and Sarah, 11

Raymonds

I am just getting out the Tampax box when my daughter bursts through the bathroom door. "What are you doing, Mummy?" I try to reply, stammering a little. Claire is only four, but even if she were older, would I find it any easier? It isn't just that it's embarrassing. There is sadness that your little girl will have all of this to cope with. Talking about it hurts. Some mothers find it almost impossible.

Claire Molyneux is 18, and her mother has mentioned periods to her only once. "When I was five or six we were at the shops and they were selling sanitary towels. I asked my mother, 'What's that?' She said, 'I'll tell you later', which she did."

Claire started menstruating at 10. At the time she thought, "Ooh look, it's happened to me!" But despite her close relationship with her mother, she admits: "I find the subject quite difficult to talk about. She doesn't know when I have my

period." Claire learnt most of the basic facts from friends.

More reliable information comes in a paperback published last week. *The Period Book* (Piatkus, £6.99) is aimed at girls from nine upwards, and it claims to tell you "everything you don't want to ask". But why, after decades of "liberation", can't girls ask their parents about periods? Have they sensed that we don't want to talk about it?

Ann Dempsey's daughter Sarah is nearly 11. "We've had to make the talking incidental — a bit at a time, so as not to panic her... it has made us closer," she believes, "because she knows what I'm going through." But Ann admits she has very mixed feelings about Sarah's approaching adolescence.

Sarah, facing major physical upheavals, is uncertain about the future. "At school we watched a video about it: it was quite good. And I do talk to my friends." She appreciates her mother's help. "But

sometimes I wish I was little again, because I don't like changing."

Ann empathises with her reluctance. "She's started to tell me she doesn't want to grow up. She sees that older girls start to perspire, and we had to talk about that, and get some nice little cleansers and things."

According to Karen Gravelle, the American author of *The Period Book*, "Mothers and fathers are fearful and worried about their adolescent daughters and that's been the case for ever." This is what makes it painful for parents to talk about periods and the onset of sexuality.

Karen wrote the book with input from her niece Jennifer, who was then aged 15. Karen agrees that the aunt/niece relationship made it easier than if Jennifer had been her own daughter. A mother is often very aware of the downside of periods for her child. As Karen Gravelle says, "Let's face it, it's a drag. From the

day she gets her period until the time of the menopause this kid is going to have to think, 'Oh God, I hope I'm not getting my period when I'm on vacation.'"

Mothers have other, deeper fears, too. A first period underlines the fact that one's daughter is a member of what is still the second sex. "We are very aware that the game changes and that little girls will get all of the disadvantages of being female that they didn't have before."

Some daughters do not share these fears. "They're excited about it," says Karen Gravelle. "I have letters from little girls saying, 'I wish I were getting my period NOW.'"

Karen found that writing the book made her more relaxed about menstruation. "Jennifer, her mother, my mother and I were sitting around the table at Christmas dinner and talking about retrieving a tampon when the string is up. It was the first time I'd discussed that with other women."

When Jennifer started her periods at 14, her mother laughed ("in fact she chuckled"). She teased Jennifer, saying, "Well, you're in for it now, because this won't go away for a long time." Jennifer says parents would benefit from being less serious in their approach. "I think people view it too much as having to have 'that talk'. With me and my mum, whenever we got onto the subject of menstruation, we'd keep going with it. It was just daily conversation."

And there is an upside, says Karen Gravelle. "If you're at high school and you see this cluster of girls around another little girl, you can be sure that the girl has blood on the back of her skirt. The other girls have made a little circle around her and they are walking her to the ladies' room." This solidarity is a source of male envy. "There are good things that men don't have. Little girls should know that other women will always come to your aid."



## the leader page

## Time to get out the soapbox, Mr Major

The Conservative Party is going through the motions. Bashing the BBC. Pretending John Major might face Tony Blair in a TV debate. Hinting at a long election campaign to flush out new Labour. This is routine pre-election game-playing. The Prime Minister's willingness to spar with Mr Blair in a live "presidential" debate is particularly phony. He would love to have a go at the Labour leader, his lieutenants say, but not with Paddy Ashdown there, because that would be two against one. No debate, then, because the Liberal Democrats would have a court injunction before you could say "David Dimbleby". As for the endless stories about this date or that, and when the Prime Minister might announce a May 1 election, none of it makes any difference. Most voters just want to get on with it. And Labour's disciplined troops are not going to make any important errors, whether they fight a short campaign or a long one. On the contrary, the more time that passes, the more scope there is for Cabinet disarray on Europe to manifest itself, as Stephen Dorrell demonstrated yesterday.

The question that Mr Major faces today, as he reviews the Tory strategy for fighting the general election, is how to change the Tory strategy. If we look back over the "near-term" cam-

paign, which started with the "demon eyes" advertisement last summer, the tenor has been overwhelmingly negative. The "demon eyes" themselves may have been successful propaganda, as a crude and massively publicised way of linking Mr Blair's apparent insincerity in some things with the gulf between the Labour leader and his party. And the Tory conference in Bournemouth last October was also a success, in that ministers and party presented themselves as united while Mr Major gave a plausible account of his pragmatic premiership in an informal shirt-sleeved question-and-answer session.

But recently the Tory campaign has been miserable and unconvincing. The costing of Labour's non-existent spending plans at £30bn a year was an attempt to reflag the 1992 election against a "new" Labour Party which has done virtually nothing since then except work out how to avoid being squashed like that again. Worse, the Tories then repeated the single poster theme that can have no credibility this time round, claiming that Labour "might" put up taxes by £2,300 a year. Of course, the £1,250 tax bombshell campaign at the last election was brilliant, hard-hitting and successful. It doesn't even matter any more whether it was dishonest or not. The one thing that everyone knows about

it is that the party which ran it has put our taxes up. All this is insulting the voters' intelligence. And they haven't even done it properly. The £2,300 figure is based on Labour spending not £30bn a year more but £54bn, if – a political poster with an "if" in the copy! – it increases spending to the European average. All this illustrated with a moth-eaten lion which yawned its way through the party political broadcast which introduced this tosh to the nation. If this represents the best that Lord Saatchi can offer a Tory party in a state of advanced electoral meltdown, then it is poor indeed. Lit-

tle wonder that Brian Mawhinney announced the early retirement of "King" the lion yesterday.

So what should the Tories do? Well, if there is a battle going on behind the scenes between Michael Heseltine and Dr Mawhinney for control of the Tory campaign, the Deputy Prime Minister should be allowed to win it. Dr Mawhinney is an able man, but he is essentially a one-dimensional politician. He is a bruiser without any of the cheerful chutzpah needed to carry it off (compare Kenneth Clarke, for example). He is about as voter-friendly as a Stasi

officer in a polling booth. It is time for Mr Major to stop pretending to be a "pair of curtains", in former Tory treasurer Lord McAlpine's crushing phrase, and take responsibility for the campaign himself.

Mr Major's friends are urging him to get out his famous soapbox and take his case to the people, as he did in the closing days of the last election. No doubt this will present him in his best light, but the real question is, what should he say? There is only one course open to him. He has to make the most of the nation's present relative economic success. The Tories can make one good case: that, over the past 18 years, despite some appalling mistakes of economic management, they have brought about historic shifts in favour of more competition and a more flexible labour market, thereby laying the foundations for sustained growth. It is pointless and demeaning to try to scare people with the prospect of Labour ruining this achievement. Mr Major should just accept that he cannot shoot new Labour down. Mr Blair simply has too many aircraft in the sky. At least, if the Prime Minister aims to concentrate on his party's arguable achievement, he can lose with some dignity and honour.

Incidentally, such a course would also be most likely to minimise Tory

losses, and give the party (and Mr Major) the best chance of recovering after the election. It would be a mistake to conduct a nasty, negative campaign, because that will leave a bitter taste, and like as not help Mr Blair on to a thumping majority. Mr Major should roll up his sleeves, climb on his soapbox and tell the truth about what he thinks his party has done best.

## Keeping an eye on the cameras

Within five years the police will have a computer system that could identify millions of people from video pictures of their faces. Many of those whose details are already held on the "visual mapping systems" of individual police forces have committed no crime. These databases are likely to be linked in future; allied to the spread of closed circuit TV cameras, this presents a challenge to our notions of civil liberty. The paradox is that few are going to worry about any of this until the police start to catch more criminals as a result of their digitised surveillance network – thus proving that it works. But then rising conviction rates will be used to justify the intrusion. The time to lay down the ground rules is now.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Help needed for England's local history

Sir: In 1899 the Victoria County History began a monumental project to record the local history of the 42 traditional counties of England. More than 200 volumes have been published, but many more remain to be written. Each is a meticulous survey – parish by parish, town by town, city by city – and forms the starting point of all serious historical research in the area covered.

For many years the VCH has been continued under the auspices of the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London, with support coming from a wide variety of academic and local authority sources, together with other sponsors. Present conditions have reduced or removed many of those past funds or supporters.

Nevertheless, the VCH's committee has approved a bold plan to undertake the work required to complete all the remaining volumes within 25 years, provided funds can be found. More volumes are in active preparation now than for many years and interest has already been rekindled in several counties.

As the centenary of this great English enterprise approaches in 1999, we look for a national initiative which will complement the academic and local efforts and secure the completion of this vital and scholarly endeavour. The resources we need are modest, compared with the cost of some of today's works of art saved for the nation: small by the standards of national plans to celebrate the Millennium, and trivial indeed when set beside the resources devoted to other aspects of our national heritage.

Yet interest in our local history and community development has grown as never before: every part of the country celebrates its traditions and background as sources both of local pride and attraction to visitors, and the authority of the VCH underlines the new emphasis which many areas now place on their social and industrial history as well as their architectural or archival legacies.

Accordingly we call on Her Majesty's Government to acknowledge the last phase of this great enterprise, which is unparalleled elsewhere in the world. We ask the Secretary of State for National Heritage to examine for herself how the work may be secured and finished; and we urge all those interested in English local history to support this initiative in any way they can.

The Duke of NORFOLK  
AMANDA ARROWSMITH  
President of the Society of Antiquaries  
The Rt Hon PADDY ASHDOWN MP  
Leader of the Liberal Democrats  
Councillor Sir JEREMY BEECHAM  
Chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities  
Lord BELOFF of WOLVERCOTE  
The Rt Hon PETER BROOKE MP  
City of London and Westminster South, Con  
Professor PATRICK COLLINSON  
Sir PATRICK CORMACK MP  
(Staffordshire, South, Con)  
Professor R R DAVIS  
Lord DONOGHUE of ASHTON  
Professor CHRISTOPHER DYER  
The Right Rev STEPHEN SYKES  
Bishop of Ely  
MARK FISHER MP  
(Stoke-on-Trent Central, Lab)  
Lady ANTONIA FRASER  
PAMELA GORDON  
President of the Society of Local



Authority Chief Executives  
Councillor PETER GREENWOOD  
Chairman of the Association of District Councils  
ALAN HOWARTH MP  
(Stratford-upon-Avon, Con)  
Lord JENKINS of HILLHEAD  
Professor COLIN MATTHEW  
STANLEY NEWSOM MEP  
(London Central, Lab)  
Professor CHARLES PHYTHIAN-ADAMS  
Lord RENFREW of KAIMSTHORN  
Earl RUSSELL  
Councillor IAN SWITHENBANK  
Chairman of the Association of the County Councils  
Professor TONY WRIGLEY

## Clone article bad for democracy

Sir: Your leading article ("Cloning presents an opportunity, not a threat", 28 February) claims that "we" should not let our emotions guide our reaction against scientists, and that it would be wrong for Western scientific leadership to abdicate its leadership because leadership would then pass to "those who are less accountable to rational democratic debate".

I found this position deeply disturbing on several counts. First, your continual use of the first person plural assumes that only one position matters – "ours". I thought democracy encompassed a diversity of opinions, including mine.

Second, one major cause of public hostility to scientific advances (whose definition?) such as cloning is precisely that scientists are not accountable for developments that will impact on all our lives, for better and worse. I

don't recall having been asked for my views on nuclear dumps and genetically engineered tomatoes. Third, deciding the risks involved in these matters is a political, not a scientific question, which is why "we" may decide that some developments may be too dangerous.

Finally, how can *The Independent* recommend debate when anyone suspecting that potential risks may outweigh the trumpeted "benefits" is ruled out of debate beforehand as "emotional"? Your biased attitude of "it's going to happen anyway, so why object?" represents a frightening abdication of critical, democratic responsibility, mythologises science still further, and makes the whole idea of debate virtually meaningless.

NICK HUNT  
Centre for Science Studies and Science Policy  
University of Lancaster

## Assisted failure

Sir: David Woodhead (letter, 1 March) stated that the Assisted Places Scheme costs £117m and enables 40,000 academically able children to achieve up to three grades better at A-level. These figures represent spending of about £3,000 per child compared to state secondary costs of about £2,000.

If the comprehensive school where I am a governor had a 50 per cent increase in funding but only managed to increase A-level performance by three grades, heads would roll.

MARTIN FREY  
Appledore, Kent

## Danger reforms now under way

Sir: Andreas Whitam Smith ("Many hands have been tilting the balance of justice", 25 February) referred to two "reforms under way that beggar belief". I entirely agree.

The article goes on: "Parliament will be asked to approve rules which limit the access to unused material by defence counsel in criminal cases unless it can be shown to be 'relevant'." As an experienced criminal practitioner, I can tell you that this will substantially increase the likelihood of further miscarriages of justice and substantially reduce the possibility of their ever being discovered and remedied.

The position is, though, far worse than Parliament being "asked to approve these rules". The Crown Prosecution Service, police and magistrates' courts staff have all been notified that these rules are coming into effect on 1 April, and for the last three months all these bodies have been receiving training in relation to their implementation.

This disastrous situation is aggravated by the fact that important opinion-makers appear to be unaware of the risks. R M BROUDIE  
Solicitor  
Liverpool

Sir: Your report of Michael Howard's proposals to limit the right to jury trial (report, 28 February) makes the erroneous

assumption that defendants thereby forced to have their cases heard in magistrates' courts would receive lighter sentences as a result.

This overlooks the power of magistrates in such cases – if they consider their own powers insufficient – to commit the defendant after conviction to the Crown Court for sentencing. It would only be if all "either way" offences were reclassified as summary only, or curbs were placed on magistrates' powers to commit for sentencing, that defendants would be guaranteed a lighter sentence.

At the moment defendants in such cases are offered a "heads we win, tails you lose" proposition, being told that even if they choose trial before magistrates, they can still be sent to the Crown Court for sentencing. In these circumstances, it is perhaps remarkable that more than 90 per cent of those given the choice do choose to be tried in the magistrates' courts. This hardly shows that the right to jury trial is being widely abused.

LEE BRIDGES  
Principal Research Fellow  
Legal Research Institute  
University of Warwick

## Libel case facts

Sir: Your short report ("Libel damages for Tory candidate", 27 February) of the Statement in Open Court clearing my name of lies peddled by the defunct *Scaevyn* magazine merely states that they concerned false charges

that I was planning a "dirty tricks" campaign against Labour.

When I began these proceedings, however, you ran a much longer report (18 February, 1995) spelling out in grisly detail that I had also been accused of putting covert pressure on my political opponents over private financial and sexual matters; and of being "rumoured to be a raving homosexual" myself.

It was rightly stated and accepted in court that I have never "collected sexual or private financial information" about any political opponents; that I am not homosexual myself; and that I have never had a sexual relationship with any male.

This smear of hypocritical, secret homosexuality has caused great harm to me, as your reporter must have anticipated in 1995 when gratuitously republishing it in the context of my issuing libel proceedings. Now that I have won substantial damages (£29,500 to date, not £16,000 as you reported), you should at least have the decency to set the record straight.

Dr JULIAN LEWIS  
New Forest East Conservative Association  
Cadnam, Hampshire

## Young lose out

Sir: My children are long-term savers with the Bristol & West Building Society, but because they cannot vote on the "merger" with the Bank of Ireland (a foreign bank) they will not receive the benefits of other investors. Who is supposed to be looking after their interests?

JOHN RIDON  
Nailsea, Avon

## Tunnel vision over tube sale?

Sir: Suppose I (a) sell a widget to a friend for, say, £10; and then (b) immediately give him the £10 back to maintain and improve the widget. An impartial observer would say that I had not sold it at all, but had given my friend the widget.

She would be confirmed in her view if (c) I told my friend he was to enjoy whatever benefits arose from owning the widget. And suppose too that the widget belonged not only to me but to my family. Several relatives might think it wrong of me to have given it away.

On Tuesday night I saw and heard on TV a minister of the Crown, who seemed to have something to do with transport, announce his intention (a) to sell the London Underground; (b) to hand the purchase money back to the buyer to maintain and improve it; and (c) to allow the buyer to keep all the advantages that result from owning the Underground, which previously had been publicly owned.

No honourable government with an eye to sound finance would behave in a way parallel to mine in my silly example of the widgets. So what have I not understood?

Rev JEREMY CRAIDOCK  
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

## A master race of vegetables

Sir: The BBC2 programme *Modern Times*, on 26 February, showed a Tesco buyer telling an African supplier that the consumer demanded a certain shape and size of mangetout.

Does this mean that tons of perfectly good vegetables are being constantly thrown away, affecting the vegetable pickers' wages and wasting perfectly good food?

What would be the effect on profits if they did the same thing to their customers – "Sorry Sir or Madam, you're not the required shape and size for a Tesco customer. We like them slimmer."

Will the consumer let them get away with this "vegetable master race" policy?

FRED SPILLER  
London E10

## Sad Soames

Sir: Having had the honour of command at sea, where total responsibility for all activities in the ship has always been accepted, I am appalled by the antics of the Armed Forces Minister over Gulf War illness ("Labour pressures Soames to resign", 27 February).

Anyone aspiring to, and attaining, high office must surely appreciate that the power and glory brings with it moral obligations and accountability. The sight of Soames whingeing and blaming subordinates and doing no more than threatening disciplinary action on others, is both sad and pathetic.

PETER DALRYMPLE SMITH  
Captain, Royal Navy (Retd)  
Bath

## Follow Cromwell

Sir: Would you agree with me that someone should say to John Major the words attributed to Oliver Cromwell (on 20 April, 1653): "It is not fit that you should sit as a Parliament any longer. You have sat long enough unless you had done more good?"

P C R VOLKNER  
Selborne, Hampshire

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.

Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk.

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

حکذا من الاجل



## Women will soon rule the world, but they won't like it

Richard D North

The bright young things' think-tank, Demos, has produced a new offspring, *Tomorrow's Women*. It shows that there is little new to say about what birds are like and what they want. Being in the Big Idea business, it must be palling to find oneself revealing the finding that "women's self-identity is no longer primarily derived from their role as mothers" and that "the majority of women - some 51 per cent - say that their self-identity comes from being a parent". The authors, Helen Wilkinson and Melanie Howard, are perhaps too womanly to be concerned with being overly logical.

The report, probably against its will, leaves intact some of the simple propositions men believe. Nearly half of mothers would be "perfectly content" to stay at home child-rearing, while women at work suffer stress and depression to match their affluence.

Demos certainly does not answer the primordial question: Why are women so much stronger than men? Surely it is because women are so serious. It is not clear whether Mrs Thatcher reinforced the male prejudice that it is not easy to get a new idea into a woman, but she certainly helped us believe that it is hard to get an old one out of her. This is not because women are stupid, but because they take ideas seriously. So a woman ideologue is even more dangerous than a male one. It is no good quoting Mao, Stalin and Hitler against this theory: they were exceptional men, not least in taking an idea to heart.

A woman's seriousness makes it unusual for her to see both sides of a case. Women are too partisan (call it loyal, if you like) for that. Women do not value fairness. They are not, in general, liberal. I should not like to be a prisoner in a jail run on lines designed by a hen party.

Women do not, by the way, make bad drivers. But they never let you in. That flows from their view that goodness is not something which is generalised, it is something which preserves and fosters, and is preserved and fostered, within the small group - say the family, or, these days, the team or firm. Of course women are always in a

## 6 Feminists have never understood women

hurry. Forty-odd percent of them juggle family and work, so they nip about in their hatchbacks at a great, preoccupied pace.

The modern woman's desire for work is understandable. Her consumer demands have made it unlikely that a single man could support her. As Carolyn Graglia, an American housewife and erstwhile lawyer, will soon argue, the sexual freedom demanded by women has made men even more feckless than they used to be, and no sensible woman embarks on marriage without ensuring she stands a chance of work after it. One senses that the modern woman never quite takes both feet off the floor.

Feminists have never understood women, and have wasted a lot of time saying how workplace mores will change for the better when womanly and more gentle ways came into play. Any man could have told them that women have always been fiercely ambitious for their spouses. Now they will be trounced in the workplace by assertive women, who are now free to fight in their own name, instead of baiting on their husbands in the modern equivalent of sending a knight off wearing one's favour.

The difficulty is, will the world be a happier place when women increasingly swap their private for new public lives? Men have lost an empire but not yet found a role (more accurately, have lost a largely fictional dominion, without yet being sure women want them to be overtly servile). But women are in a mess too. They have got a lot of what they wanted and assume that their disquiet flows from not having got enough of it.

This last bit may not be right. We can all accept that women could, and possibly should, run the world. It is much harder to be sure they would do so in a womanly way, or enjoy it much. It is just as well John Gray has come along with his books about how men are from Mars and women from Venus. He emphasises how men and women can enjoy being different from one another. Certainly, as Dale Griffin at Sussex University has pointed out, romance is better than close inspection when it comes to keeping couples together. Love, not analysis, conquers all. It may conquer women's new lust for overt power as well. Demos's report wonders if the "long march to equality" will continue, or "will we see other forces push in the opposite direction, driving women back into the home?" Looks like many women won't take much driving.

Tomorrow's Women - A one-day event, London, March 7 - call 0171-292 4506. The Housewife as Politician, London, March 10 - call 0171-636 8000, extension 5102.



# An inspector calls on privatised care

The Government is giving in to the care homes' lobby, says Polly Toynbee

Any day now, the Government is due to bring out a White Paper on the social services and we will no doubt hear Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell complaining again about "politically correct" social workers. But the real reason the Government is acting so straight-forward is it is giving in to lobbying by small firms who see a rich seam of gold in the growing numbers of old people needing care.

The private care industry, aided and abetted by the Department of Trade and Industry, is after two things. One is the privatisation of remaining council homes, and the other is less regulation by councils of the quality of care private homes have to provide the growing numbers of frail old people.

The "care industry" is mostly made up of small firms, and their interest group, the Federation of Small Businesses, has been bending ministers' ears with, it seems, some success. Their pitch is couched in terms of saving public money: by closing council homes, the state could save £750m on cheaper places in private homes.

The federation attacks the whole policy of community care, which tries to keep old people in their own homes as long as possible, because it has left many home-owners with too many empty beds. They have been telling ministers that community care wastes money and it would be cheaper to shovel the old more quickly into the spare beds in private homes. In the document they have just published, it is surprising to see how nakedly they promote business needs ahead of choice for old people.

While there is nothing wrong in principle with private provision, it is the quality of care that matters, and that depends on rigorous inspection.

But now the inspection system itself is also under attack and the White Paper is likely to undermine it further. The Department of Health, under Stephen Dorrell, looks set to take up the home-owners' view that official inspections are being far too strict in their inspections. The White Paper will reinforce a circular that was sent round to all local authorities over a year ago, telling them to regulate private care homes with a "lighter touch". But what exactly does that mean?

Take the London Borough of Croydon as a case study of the battle between the Government-backed home-owners and the local authorities trying to make sure their old people are decently looked after. It is a big borough with a fairly large population of old people.

Already there are 100 private care homes and eight local authority homes, so it is hardly a case of public sector provision squeezing out private. Croydon says the council needs a few homes of its own for the severely demented whom the private sector does not cater for.

Yes, the council's homes do cost more. But that is because the staff are recruited and trained to higher standards than in much of the private sector. Croydon council staff are paid a living wage (hardly princely - it's about £5.50 an hour). Private sector conditions are generally lower. Nationally, there are some half-a-million women working in care homes at exploitation wages, some as low as £2 an hour. (Incidentally, a minimum wage would not lose them their jobs: these homes are staffed at minimum levels anyway, so their wages would rise and private home costs would be closer to local authority home costs.)

Last week, the Croydon official responsible for purchasing social care for the elderly wrote an alarming letter to the leader of the (Labour-controlled) council. She lists various examples of poor practice in private residential homes which include: "Serious concerns [over] inappropriate medication being given to residents. Convictions for fraud. Residents' personal finances mismanaged and misappropriated. Poor record-keeping. As a result of concerns, three homes were compulsorily closed down in the private sector during 1995/6. One home-owner was prosecuted for running an unregistered home."

Croydon council has been coming under strong pressure from local home-owners, especially those belonging to the South London and Surrey Care Homes Association. Croydon, they say, is running an inspection unit that is far too rigorous. Naturally, there is going to be tension between the inspectors and the inspected. But what the council did not expect was intervention from the Department of Health; the junior minister, Simon Burns, has weighed in on the care home owners' side. In a letter sent in January, he said he was "struck by the apparent breakdown in relations between a section of the

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## How England lost the rugby - by the experts

I was in the pub yesterday, partly to line my stomach with alcohol against any possible invasion of injurious fatty foods, partly to catch up on the aftermath of the shock defeat of England at the rampaging hands of the runaway French rugby team. I had not long to wait. No sooner had I inserted my tongue into the first life-giving quarter-inch of lemonade shandy than I heard a voice say:

"Well, what do you reckon to the shock defeat of England at the rampaging hands of the runaway French rugby team, then?"

The speaker was Sid, who always talks in newspaper headlines, and thus has few friends but is quite useful for getting a conversation started, or, more often, stopped dead in its tracks.

"Bit of a shock," said the landlord. "Defeat like that. We were well ahead - then bang! Rampaging runaway defeat. At the hands of The French."

The landlord has a habit of rephrasing whatever the last person has said to encourage someone else to react. When the conversation is shared entirely by Sid and the landlord, it can be a mind-deadening experience. Luckily this particular conversation found someone willing to pick up the ball and run, as it were.

"I thought it was interesting," said Jim, "that the French did everything they are not meant to. Traditionally, the French rugby team is like the West Indian cricket team - when they are behind and heading for defeat, they find it hard to pick themselves up."

Their heads go down," said Sid, master of the cliché.

"But not this time," said Jim. "Faced with an English team that was 14 points ahead and heading for a comfortable victory, the French got stuck in and overhauled the English to clock up their first win at Twickenham since Jack Rowell had dark hair. What went wrong? Why did the French lose their heads, panic and win?"

Well, I have a theory. Jim is our resident theoretician. He can produce a theory to explain everything. Last week he even produced a theory to explain why Nicholas Soames had all the symptoms of Gulf war syndrome (amnesia, drastic weight problems, fading grasp on reality, total loss of personal responsibility, etc) without having fought there.

"My theory is that the way nations play games reflects their national characteristics. The Welsh play rugby with a Celtic

passion. The Italians play football with artistry and cynicism. But the English play rugby - and football - in a very English way, that is, doggedly and systematically. No flair, not much invention or improvisation. They don't trust that. They don't like risks. They trust to hard graft. It's the old bulldog spirit. See it through. Get stuck in. Noses to the grindstone. The only time they ever dare to cut loose is in the last 20 minutes, when they have bored the enemy into submission. In the old days I would have said it was a hangover from the Industrial Revolution, but nowadays I think it's a sort of muscle-bound managerial malaise."

"What does that mean?" I said.

"The English play rugby as if it were a business project these days," said Jim. "You can hear it in the commentary on the BBC, all those blokes chuntering on about 'making the ball

available' and 'setting up a platform for sideways expansion' and 'recycling the ball for second-phase activity' and 'cleaning up round the edges'. It's horrible. The English play rugby with a sort of grinding competence. They play rugby the way the Germans would play if they ever played rugby."

"That doesn't explain why the French won in the last 10 minutes."

"No," said Jim, sounding surprised. "It doesn't does it? But it explains why I'm bloody glad the French did win! He gave a great shout of pleasure and beat the bar."

"I'm as English as the next man," he went on, "but it gave me a great deal of pleasure to see those 15 chartered accountants in rugby shirts get their comeuppance! Maybe now they'll give old Rowell the boot..."

"I'll tell you something else," said Henry, who hadn't spoken till now. "Maybe the English team lost on purpose to get rid of their manager. Maybe this was Jack Rowell's Writal South."

"Meaning?"

"Meaning that we have two white-haired men out there. One is called Mr Rowell and one is called Mr Major. Both want their contracts renewed for another term. Both say they can lead us to victory. Both have had a stunning defeat in the last two days..."

"I have a theory," said Jim. "I think that a country's politics reflects its national character. The thing about the English..."

It was at this point I suddenly felt a crying need for fresh air, lunch, home and a protracted period of silence, and I have no idea what was talked about next.



Miles Kingston

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THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE.  
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BUPA CareFinder  
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## obituaries / gazette

## Nuccio Bertone

The car as an object of desire was conceived in Italy and brought to birth by the great Italian automobile design houses. Of these, Carrozzeria Bertone has been one of the most enduring and successful, but more importantly, Nuccio Bertone himself initiated designs that were radical and passionate as well.

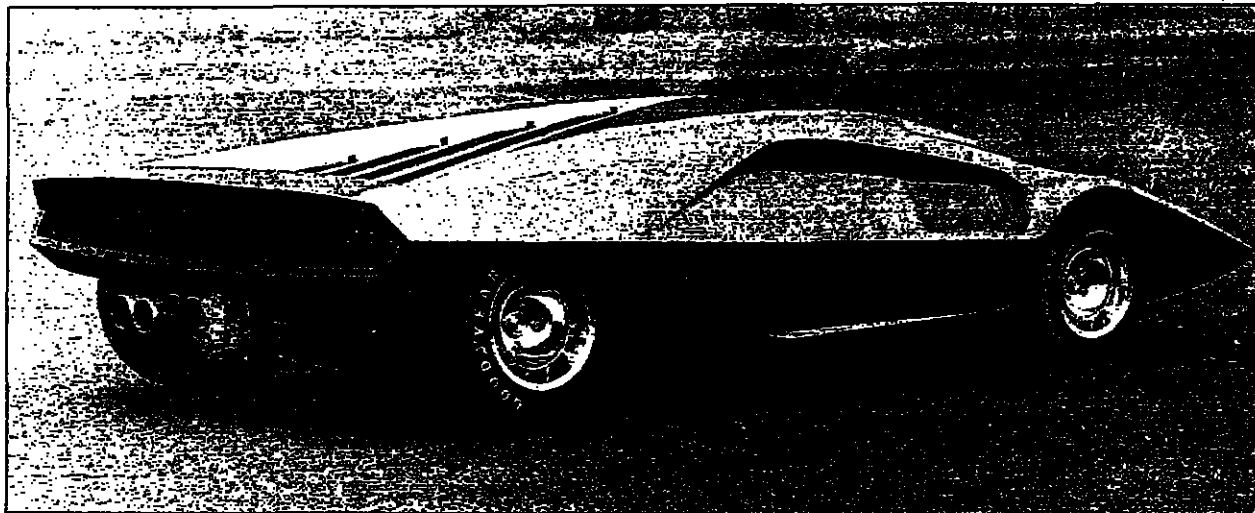
Bertone was a man whose aesthetic awareness combined with a sharp business brain and a flair for spotting talented young designers. He inherited the company from his father, Giovanni, who founded it in 1912 as a small carriage works, well known for making racing sulkies. Giovanni was born in 1884 into a poor farming family living near the town of Moncalvo, in southern Piedmont. He moved to Turin in 1907 and inevitably became involved in the fever of automobile development that had gripped the city since the start of the century.

By the time Nuccio Bertone was born, in 1914, the little company was beginning to grow. Car bodies were being built for the manufacturer Daimler-Benz, and the sulkies were soon abandoned. Seeing the need for good management, Giovanni had his son study accountancy before going on to Turin Polytechnic to read economics. But plans to expand the business overtook Nuccio's graduation and he left before

completing his degree. This did him no harm, for throughout the uncertainties of 1930s Italy and the subsequent turmoil of the Second World War, Nuccio Bertone learned his trade – as he put it himself, he learned to “breathe air and automobiles”.

During the Thirties Carrozzeria Bertone, sometimes working closely with Studio Revelli, built orthodox, well-finished bodies for Fiat and Lancia, among others, and their work on Balilla and Aprilia chassis was well regarded but seldom outstanding. It was not until 1950, when Nuccio took complete control of the company, that the international reputation for innovative design that Bertone was to acquire began to emerge. The workshops he inherited were still craft based and, although knowledge of the industrial techniques developed in the United States was steadily infiltrating Turin, much of the work was done by hand. It was a mark of Bertone's prescience that he understood clearly the need to introduce mass production systems to the firm while never losing sight of the importance of innovative design, distinctive prototypes and, where necessary, small production runs.

The first significant work was done in 1951 for the American importer, Arnold, for whom several experimental designs



A profound influence on the shape of European cars: the prototype of Bertone's Lancia Stratos, 1970

Photograph: Nigel Trow Collection

were executed by Franco Scaglione, Bertone's chief designer. They were based upon the Fifties MG and were followed in 1952 by the beautiful Arnold-Bristol. This car, one of the loveliest of the company's early post-war designs, led directly to a deal with Alfa Romeo to develop a new small coupé, the Giulietta, that was to change the course of Bertone's fortunes for ever.

Prior to this, however, Bertone had Scaglione produce some utterly bizarre and beautiful cars on the estab-

lished Alfa 1900 chassis. They were known as BATs, a truncated form of “Berlinetta Aerodinamica Tecnica”, and were characterised by curving rear wings that arched upon themselves like the nacelles of a jet aircraft. These strange machines, never intended for production, resulted in a contract to develop a Giulietta prototype and subsequently to build bodies for the production car which went on sale in 1955.

The Alfa Romeo contract was a great success. Bertone was consequently approached by

other manufacturers like Fiat

and Abarth, for whom he produced a minute 500cc World Speed Record machine that broke innumerable records.

Such novelties, built alongside the steady stream of pretty cars for the public that were emerging from his factory, exemplified perfectly Nuccio Bertone's approach to motor manufacturing. It was an approach that paid off, and by 1961 Carrozzeria Bertone was established in vast premises at Grugliasco, on the outskirts of Turin, and was set to become an

important part of the automotive industry.

The practice of radical design begun by Scaglione was continued in 1959 by a 21-year-old, Giorgetto Giugiaro, whom Bertone appointed as head of design when the older man left the company. Giugiaro was given his head by Bertone, who demonstrated yet again his ability to identify talent. The young designer received the most generous and sympathetic support from his visionary boss and over the next six years was not only responsible for the Alfa

2000 and the Fiat 850 Spider but contributed largely to the Testudo, based on GM's Corvair-Monza, to the Alfa Canguro and to the fine, front-engined Fiat Dino coupé.

In 1966 Giugiaro moved to Ghia and was succeeded by yet another outstanding designer, Marcello Gandini. The catholic generosity of Nuccio Bertone's approach to design could not have been better demonstrated than by this appointment. Gandini's vision was quite different from Giugiaro's, and different again from Scaglione's. Yet Bertone never hesitated in giving him the same freedom and encouragement that he had given the others for, as he said in an interview that I conducted with him 10 years ago, “I pick people for what I feel about them, for what they will do rather than what they have done already.” In Gandini's case this was fortunate, because at that point he had designed some furniture and nothing else.

During the time Gandini worked for him, Bertone produced the wonderfully beautiful Miura for Lamborghini. Then, via the Alfa Carabo, followed by the little dart-shaped Lancia Stratos and the redesigned rally-winning Stratos proper, he revealed to a bemused public the Lamborghini Countach, a car quite unlike anything seen before or since. This period of 10 years

established certain ground rules for the way they should look and at that time, in a period of expansion, he deliberately chose to restrain the company in favour of establishing his ideal design studio at Caprie, in the foothills of the Alps approaching Susa, where he encouraged innovation not only in cars but in other industrial and consumer products.

Nigel Trow

Giuseppe “Nuccio” Bertone, automobile designer; born Turin 4 July 1914; married (two daughters); died Turin 23 February 1997.

## David Doyle

As Bosley, assistant to the three female detectives’ invisible boss in the hit American television series *Charlie’s Angels*, the actor David Doyle gained worldwide fame in the Seventies, although he had already won regular roles in the series *Bridge Loves Bernie* and *The New Dick Van Dyke Show*. Each week, in *Charlie’s Angels*, Doyle oversaw the trio of heroines on behalf of their unseen boss, Charlie, as each one was placed in jeopardy, managing to get through a wardrobe of half a dozen or more outfits each and keeping their trendy hairstyles and make-up in tact. Some critics dismissed the programme as sexist, but up to 50 million Americans tuned in regularly and it thrilled international audiences for five years.

Born in Nebraska in 1929, Doyle made his Broadway theatre debut in *Will Success Spoil Rock Hunter*, replacing Walter Matthau, and he also performed in a production of *South Pacific* at the Lincoln Center, New York. He appeared in more than 20 films, including *Act One* (1964), *No Way to Treat a Lady* (1968), *Paper Lion* (1968), *Loving* (1970), *Vigilante Force* (1976), *Capricorn One* (1978), *The Comeback* (1982) and *Love or Money* (1990), and provided the voice of the guardian cricket Pepe in *The Adventures of Pinocchio*, last year’s live-action remake of the Disney animated classic.

But it was on television that the actor was best known. Doyle played Walt Fitzgerald in *Bridge Loves Bernie* (1972-73),



Overseeing the Angels on behalf of their unseen boss Charlie: Doyle with, from left, Kate Jackson, Farrah Fawcett-Majors, Cheryl Ladd and Jaclyn Smith in *Charlie’s Angels*

Photograph: UPI

a popular series starring Meredith Baxter and David Birney, and based on the long-running Twenties Broadway comedy *Abie’s Irish Rose*. Then came the role of Ted Atwater in *The New Dick Van Dyke Show* (1972-73), in which the star tried to revive the success of the original Sixties sitcom, but it failed to reach the same level of popularity.

In 1976, Doyle was cast as John Bosley in the producer Aaron Spelling’s international hit *Charlie’s Angels*, which ran until 1981. The original trio of glamorous actresses starring as

female detectives – Kate Jackson, Jaclyn Smith and Farrah Fawcett-Majors – changed as the series went on, but Doyle remained for its entire run. Charlie Townsend, the Angels’ boss, was never seen, but his voice was supplied by John Forsythe, who was later to find even greater fame as Blake Carrington in *Dynasty*. Doyle also directed some episodes of the series.

His other notable television roles included Kurt Mueller in *Police Story* (1973) and Teddy Roosevelt in *Wild and Wonderful* (1978). He also appeared in many television films and in

episodes of series such as *The Patty Duke Show* (as Jonathan Harrison, 1963-66), *That Was the Week That Was*, *M\*A\*S\*H* (1973), *All in the Family* (1974), *Taxi* (1975), *Fantasy Island*, *Starman* (1986), *Rugrats* (1991), *Road Rovers* (1996) and, shortly before his death, *The New Adventures of Superman* and the new soap *Sunset Beach*, featuring Lesley-Ann Down.

Anthony Hayward

David Fitzgerald Doyle, actor; born Lincoln, Nebraska 1 December 1929; married; died Los Angeles 26 February 1997.

## Raymond Lambert

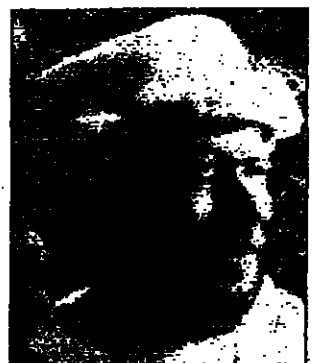
Raymond Lambert was one of Switzerland’s best-known mountaineers and glacier pilots. Despite his many successes, he will probably be remembered best as the man who narrowly missed making the first ascent of Everest, with Sherpa Tenzing Norgay, in 1952.

He was born on 18 October 1914 in Geneva, where he lived all his life. By his early twenties, he had emerged as one of the leading stars in a talented group of Genevans climbers, vying with French, German and Italian rivals for some of the hardest new climbs in the Mont Blanc Range. Second ascents of the Croix de la Vierge, the Druas and the North Face of the Druas (where his name is immortalised in the Fissure Lambert) put him at the forefront of international mountaineering, but his most futuristic climb, in 1938, was a winter ascent of the Aiguilles Diabliques, which are as fearsome as their name suggests. A vicious February storm caught the party on the culminating summit of Mont Blanc du Tacul and Lambert was only able to seek rescue after three days sheltering in a crevasse. All his severely frostbitten toes were subsequently amputated.

There is a persistent myth that human beings need tools to operate effectively. Lambert, a mountain guide and ski instructor by profession, defied the myth and within a year he was climbing again. His mountaineering career continued through the Second World War and in 1952 he was an obvious choice for Ed Wyss-Dunant’s

Genevans expedition to Everest. Tibet was now closed to foreigners but Nepal had just opened up. The previous year Eric Shipton’s British-New Zealand reconnaissance had climbed the Khumbu Icefall and reached the elusive Western Cwm, proving that Everest could be climbed from Nepal. Unfortunately for the British, who had enjoyed exclusive access to the mountain for 21 years, the Nepal government gave the 1952 permit to the Swiss.

Building on Shipton’s experience, the Genevans reached the head of the Western Cwm and climbed the huge face above to the desolate, windswept plateau of the South Col. Three Swiss climbers and Sherpa Tenzing continued towards the summit, pitching a tent at 8,400m. Two returned, leaving Tenzing and Lambert, who had become firm friends, to make a summit attempt. High altitude mountaineering in 1952 was still in its infancy. Even Swiss organisation and technology were not up to the job and, apart from Tenzing, the Sherpas had little experience. Despite the best plans, Tenzing and Lambert now had to spend a night at 8,400m with no sleeping bags and no stove, producing a trickle of drinking water by melting snow over a candle. The oxygen sets were barely operable and when the two men continued in the morning, they were effectively climbing without oxygen. They struggled heroically, at times crawling on all fours, hindered by the dead weight of malfunctioning oxygen sets, fi-



Lambert: futuristic ascent

nally grinding to a halt at over 8,500m, less than 250m short of the summit. Assuming that Mallory and Irvine did not reach the summit in 1924, this was higher than anyone had ever been.

Lambert’s extraordinary determination was further confirmed that autumn when, alone out of the spring team, he returned for the second Swiss attempt on Everest. This time he and Tenzing were driven back from the South Col by the November jet stream winds and, to the immense relief of the British team, preparing for 1953, the Swiss admitted defeat.

Lambert returned to Nepal in 1954, trespassing across the Tibetan frontier to attempt Gaurisankar, and in 1955 to make the first ascent with Eric Gauchat and Claude Kogan of Ganesh I (7,429m). Subsequent expeditions took him to Pakistan and South America.

Then in 1959 he embarked on a completely new career and by

1963, now married with two children, he was a fully qualified glacier pilot, flying to remote and inaccessible icy areas – a vocation which brought him considerable fame until he finally stopped flying ten years ago at the age of 72.

Lord Hunt recalls meeting Raymond Lambert in 1953 to learn as much as he could about the Swiss attempt on Everest. “Despite their disappointment, the Swiss were most helpful. However, Raymond told me tactfully, ‘Monsieur Colonel, vous savez, gros problèmes, meaning, I think, that we hadn’t a hope in hell.’” On 26 May 1953, exactly a year after Lambert’s attempt, Hunt himself photographed the skeletal remains of the tent at 8,400m. “It brought home the significance of their performance and made me force myself 50m higher up the ridge, to deposit the supplies for our final camp.” Three days later Hillary and Tenzing reached the summit. On the way home, the team stopped off at Zurich airport and met the Swiss trail-blazers again. Lord Hunt recalls that, this time, “they offered us unreserved applause. In later years Raymond and I became close friends. He was not a demonstrative person, but the warmth of personality, once bestowed, was very precious to me.”

Stephen Venables

Raymond Jules Eugene Lambert, mountaineer and pilot; born 18 October 1914; married (one son, one daughter); died Geneva 25 February 1997.

## Ion Voicu

Ion Voicu, the elder statesman of Romanian violinists, was once described as having “magic in his fingers”.

This is not surprising since he could trace his lineage back to the legendary Leopold Auer through two of his teachers, David Oistrakh and Abram Yampolsky and to Vitti through a third, George Enescu. In addition to his distinguished achievements as a soloist and later, conductor, Voicu was also greatly respected as a teacher.

He was born in Bucharest into a family where professional musicians had flourished for some 300 years. He had his first lessons with Constantin Niculescu when he was six and entered the Royal Academy of Music in Bucharest at 14, where he was considered sufficiently advanced to be placed in the

fourth year studying with George Enescu. He graduated in 1940 having completed the seven-year course in three.

His first job as a rank and file violinist in the Bucharest Radio Orchestra and his initial encounter with the celebrated conductor Wilhelm Mengelberg nearly terminated his career before it started. At the first rehearsal, Mengelberg thought Voicu was not paying attention and threw him out of the room. During the interval the musical director asked Mengelberg to hear a very gifted 17-year-old violinist from the orchestra. When Voicu entered, Mengelberg exploded saying he could not even pay attention, so where was the talent? Nonetheless, the director persuaded him to hear him play, and after some Bach, Beethoven and Mendelssohn, Mengelberg said: “Now I un-

derstand. He is not meant to be sitting in an orchestra, but standing – as a soloist!” Shortly afterwards, Voicu made his solo debut with the same orchestra and the critics were ecstatic.

At another concert shortly afterwards, George Enescu happened to be in the audience and was so impressed that he offered to give Voicu free lessons. In 1946, Yehudi Menuhin went to Romania to help Enescu organise a national competition and Voicu won first prize.

Three years later, Voicu first appeared as a soloist with the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra and made several tours abroad. In 1954 he achieved one of his greatest ambitions, to study with Abram Yampolsky at the Moscow Conservatoire. He told me: “The idea of studying the classics with someone in a direct line

to Auer was very exciting. He somehow managed to combine a mastery of the instrument with his own musical feelings, but above all he encouraged us to think for ourselves.” Following the death of Yampolsky in 1955, Voicu began studies with David Oistrakh and took a doctorate at Moscow University.

The association with Oistrakh was much more than a professor-student relationship and they became close friends. The lessons which Voicu had at Oistrakh’s home often went on all day. “He was like a brother – a friend – whatever. We would meet whenever we could, in Brussels, Paris, New York, and when he was in Bucharest we would spend time together as a family. His death was such a loss to the musical world and to his many friends.”

On his return to Romania in

1957, Voicu’s career took on international dimensions. He made his British debut at the Wigmore Hall in 1963 and received rave reviews: as a result he was engaged to play with the Philharmonia, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and the Halle orchestras; the recordings he made of the Mendelssohn and Bruch G minor concertos with the LSO and Rafael Frickbeck de Burgos were refuted in 1994.

In 1965 Voicu made his American debut at Carnegie Hall in New York and it was so well received that he was immediately engaged by the impresario Sol Hurok to take on a coast-to-coast tour. This success continued throughout the years during which time he played with the world’s leading orchestras and conductors including Furtwängler, Silverstein, Dorati, Berglund and Beriboli.



Voicu: ‘Romanian People’s Artist’

Photograph: Margaret Campbell

with whom he had a particular affinity. In 1969, he founded the Bucharest Chamber Orchestra of which he was conductor and soloist and since 1973 was also director of the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra.

ki, the Enescu in Bucharest and the Tchaikovsky in Moscow, where he was Vice-President several times.

Voicu received many honours including the Engene Vasile Medal in Brussels, Romania’s First Class State Prize, and “Romanian People’s Artist” which he alone has received. He played on a magnificent Stradivari violin, the “Elder”, dated 1702, which belonged to a pupil of Joseph Joachim.

Voicu was not only a great violinist, as a man he was kind, generous and good humoured, and incredibly modest, totally unspoiled by fame.

Margaret Campbell

Ion Voicu, violinist and composer; born Bucharest 8 October 1923; married (one son, one daughter); died Bucharest 24 February 1997.

## BIRTHS

YOUNG: On 22 February 1997, to Clare and Patrick, Zachary William Hunter, brother to Alexander, Rosalind, Katherine, Imogen and Beatrice.

## DEATHS

CARTER: John Mackenzie, classical, much-loved husband of Gill, father of Colin and Judith, brother of Bridget and step-father of Simon, Mark and Daniel, died in hospital on 27 February 1997. Funeral service at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath, on Friday 7 March at 1pm. Floral tributes, or donations to MIND, to E. Hooper & Sons, 15 St James Parade, Bath BA1 1UL.

KELLY: John Michael, on 26 February 1997, at home. Deeply loved husband of Christine, father of Laura and Geraldine, and grandfather of Isla, Jenna, Sean, and Kirstie. Loved and respected by family, friends and clients for his solitude, generosity and integrity, and for his passion for a wide range of music. Service at Beckenham Crematorium (Aylesham Road) on Friday 7 March at 11am. All

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

welcome. Family flowers only, please. Donations if desired to: Harrogate Marie Curie Hospice, on W.A. Truelove & Son Ltd, Funeral Directors, Caterham, Surrey. Telephone 01883 343345.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

LAND: Barbara Mary Land (journalist), 43, died suddenly on 17 November 1996, of heart failure. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday 18 March 1997 at 12pm at the church of St James The Less, Priory Street, Colchester, Essex. No flowers at the church. Instead, please send any donations to the Barbara Land Memorial Trust Fund, set up for the benefit of her three children, c/o Lloyds Bank branch code 30-99-88, account number 0768664.

## Birthdays

Mr Ernest Bradbury, writer and broadcaster, 78; The Hon Peter Brooke MP, 63; Sir George Gardiner MP, 62; Dr Rod Hackney, 60; president, RIBA, 59; Mr Maurice Lynn, former Headmaster, the Oratory School, 46; Mrs Eleanor McLaughlin, former Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of Edinburgh, 56; Air Vice Marshal Charles Maughan, 74; Professor Neil Merritt, former Vice-Chancellor, Portsmouth University, 58; Mr James Miller, Headmaster, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, 47; Mr Peter O’Sullivan, racing commentator, 79; Sir Mark Prescott, racehorse trainer, 49; Miss Miranda Richardson, actress, 39; Mr Ronald Seale, artist and cartoonist, 77; Lord Templeman, a former Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 77; Miss Fatima Whitbread, javelin thrower, 36.

## Anniversaries

Births: Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, 1847; Jean

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen took a reception for members of the Order of St. Andrew and the Order of St. George at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

## Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry, Mounted Regiment, mounted the Queen’s Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the *All England Law Reports*.

## Animals

Davidson v Strong: QB Div Ct (Lord Bingham CJ, Moses J) 29 Jan 1997.

The offence under art 5 of the Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990 was one of strict liability. The prosecution must prove first that the animal was unfit and second that the defendant had knowingly allowed it to be exposed for sale. The defence of lawful authority or excuse was available if he could show that the animal was not unfit or that he had reasonable grounds for believing that it was fit.

David Cocks QC, Nicholas Elcombe

## CASE SUMMARIES

3 March 1997

(Thompson, Smith & Paxon, Colchester) for the appellant; Paul Sadarean (Marshall, Sutton & Jones, Colchester) for the respondent.

Bugs R v Smith LJ, Forbes, Smedley JJ) 5 Feb 1997.

The general statement on the construction of s 9(1) of the Interpretation of Communications Act 1986 by the Court of Appeal in R v Effic (1992) 95 Cr App R 427, that it did not prevent the admission of the product of a telephone intercept to which the Act applied, was to be modified only to the extent that it related to a warrant

intercept. Section 9(1)(a) was not sufficient in itself to prevent admissibility of the substance of consensual interception. Since, on the question of admissibility, the fact that the evidence might have been obtained unlawfully was irrelevant, cross-examination to show that the intercept was not consensual could not be entertained, quite apart from s 9(1)(a).

John Spencer QC (Middlesex, Manchester) for the appellant; Bernard Levell (CPS) for the Crown.

## Tax

Sarsfield (HMRT) v Dumas Group

plc CTD (Lightman J) 3 Jan 1997. A company which provided transport services for a retail chain of shops operated by another member of the same group of companies was entitled to capital allowances for industrial buildings or structures for costs incurred in providing warehouse accommodation. The buildings were industrial buildings within s 7(1) of the Capital Allowances Act 1968 and were not disqualified as being used for purposes “ancillary” to a retail shop within s 7(3). The transport company was carrying out a business separate from the retail shops. Michael Furness (Inland Revenue); Rex Breen QC, Stephen Brandon QC (Tannus Sabar Dechert) for Dumas.



# Omens not good for Cadbury Schweppes' global aspirations

Life was never going to be easy for Cadbury Schweppes, the company tasked with taking on arch-rivals like Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, Mars and Nestlé in the cut-throat international soft drinks and confectionery business.

From its historic chocolate-making base at Bourneville in Birmingham, Cadbury aspires to conquer the world by building a truly global presence in both markets - drinks now account for almost two-thirds of profits - but the omens are not good. In carbonated soft drinks, it lags a distant third behind Coca-Cola and Pepsi, while in confectionery it is fourth to Nestlé, Mars and Kraft Jacob Suchard, owned by Philip Morris.

True, Cadbury operates in growing international markets but they are also consolidating ones. This poses challenges as well as opportunities for a group that has more limited resources than its international

competitors and has satisfied market appetite for its paper, argues Tim Potter, food analyst at Merrill Lynch in a note previewing Cadbury's full-year results this Wednesday, when he will be looking for pre-tax profits to advance from £512m to £590m.

Given these key strategic and structural considerations, it is small wonder that Cadbury's investors have not exactly enjoyed a bountiful return on their investment.

In the last year alone the shares have underperformed the stock market by almost 20 per cent, coming off a high of 561p to close on Friday at 408p, having touched a low of 458p earlier this year.

One reason for the market's caution is Cadbury's falling market share in the US soft drinks market.

Spilling out \$1.7bn two years ago for Dr Pepper gave Cadbury the 7-Up lemonade brand and number two slot in

the global non-cola soft drinks league. But the deal came at a heavy price. It made Cadbury a much greater threat to Coca-Cola, which responded ruthlessly by mounting a heavy promotion campaign for Sprite, its own lemon-lime brand.

In turn, 7-Up was re-launched and although several years of volume decline has been arrested some loss in market share is inevitable.

According to brokers NatWest, US trade sources say Dr Pepper/7-Up volumes rose 0.3 per cent last year compared with a market increase of 3.6 per cent. Of the top four players in the US market, Cadbury was the only one to have recorded a loss in market share - to 14.5 per cent from 15.3 per cent.

Longer-term, analysts are concerned that the relative weakness of 7-Up and the long tail of smaller beverage brands will restrict Cadbury's ability to



## STOCK MARKET WEEK PATRICK TOOHER

compete in the US soft drinks market. Its decision to sell its 51 per cent stake in its UK soft drinks bottling joint venture to a Coca-Cola subsidiary for



£623m has also raised fears that it will no longer be able to exert enough control on its business when it relies on external bottlers.

At the time the deal was completed last month Dominic Cadbury, chairman, said its main purpose was to allow Cadbury to release funds hitherto tied up in bottling assets and devote them to the growth of the group's branded portfolio. Debts will also come tumbling down to around £900m at the end of this year from an estimated £1.4bn in 1996.

Talk that Cadbury may embark on the acquisition trail again, possibly by swooping on that old takeover favourite United Biscuits, looks wide of the

mark. Indeed, with the Anglo-Dutch food and detergents giant Unilever apparently keen to expand by using the cash it will get from the sale of its specialty chemicals businesses, speculative interest in Cadbury itself has been growing.

Cadbury Schweppes is just one of the features in one of the busiest weeks of the year for corporate results, which include big-hitters like HSBC bank, conglomerate BTR, drugs giant Glaxo Wellcome, specialty chemicals group Cookson, and engineers GKN and Rolls-Royce.

Healthcare group Smith & Nephew is set to announce solid profits growth tomorrow. Few surprises are expected as the company as a whole is in a strong position. It is coping well with tough market conditions and the impact of a strong pound. They expect up to £197m at the pre-tax level versus £180m in 1995.

Prices in the US, which ac-

counts for around 40 per cent of Smith & Nephew's turnover, are under pressure in such areas as orthopaedic implants and wound management by increasingly powerful health providers. News about the company's novel skin replacement product Dermagraft will also be eagerly awaited.

The betting and hotel group Ladbroke is expected to report a profit rise of around 30 per cent to around £160m when it releases its 1996 figures on Thursday.

The main focus of attention is likely to be on any plans Ladbroke might have to launch a bid for the rival London casino operator Capital Corporation, which is currently on the receiving end of a hostile £181m approach from London Clubs.

Analysts expect Hilton Hotels Corporation to move swiftly to acquire the 5 per cent holding in Ladbroke it has said it will take "in due course" following the recent deal to re-

unite Hilton hotels brand name for the first time in 32 years. They insist that HHC's \$6.5bn bid for ITT Corp, owner of the Sheraton hotel chain, was already being lined up before the Hilton alliance with Ladbroke was sealed.

The tobacco and insurance group BAT Industries is expected to post pre-tax profits of up to £2.70bn (£2.38bn) when it reports 1996 results on Wednesday. Like Cadbury Schweppes, Smith & Nephew and Ladbroke, US factors will be to the fore again.

Tobacco litigation in the US dominates sentiment towards the shares and investors are keen to hear about any developments on this front.

Both BAT and RJR Nabisco have said they will consider an industry-wide settlement to bring an end to the ongoing legal battles, while Philip Morris is also thought to be amenable to settling the disputes.

### Alcoholic Beverages

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
Guinness	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Heineken	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Stout	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Banks, Merchant

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
Barclays	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
HSBC	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Midland	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Banks, Retail

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Breweries, Pubs & Rest

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
Beck's	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Carlsberg	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Heineken	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Diversified Industries

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
Unilever	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Glaxo	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Smith & Nephew	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Engineering Vehicles

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
Volvo	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
BMW	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Mercedes	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Extractive Industries

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
BP	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Shell	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
British Petroleum	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Food Manufacturers

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
Unilever	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Glaxo	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Smith & Nephew	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Gas Distribution

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
British Gas	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Scottish Gas	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Welsh Gas	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Health Care

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
Smith & Nephew	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Glaxo	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Unilever	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Household Goods

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
Unilever	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Glaxo	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Smith & Nephew	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Investment Companies

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Investment Trusts

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Life Assurance

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Media

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Oil Exploration

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Oil, Integrated

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Other Financial

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Pharmaceuticals

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Printing & Paper

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Property

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Retailers, Food

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Retailers, General

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Textiles & Apparel

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Tobacco

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Transport

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Water

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Support Services

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

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Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
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Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: r: Ex-rights x Ex-dividend x Ex: at a United Securities Market a Suspended Up Party Paid Nil Nil Paid Shares: + AM Stock

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### Interest Rates

UK	Germany	US	Japan
Base Rate	6.00%	Prime	6.75%
Discount	4.50%	Discount	5.00%
Overnight	3.50%	Overnight	5.00%
3 Month	4.50%	3 Month	5.00%
6 Month	5.00%	6 Month	5.00%
12 Month	5.50%	12 Month	5.00%
Advances	2.75%	Advances	4.00%

### Oil Exploration

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Lloyds	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%

### Oil, Integrated

Company	Price	Change	Dividend	Yield
First Direct	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.5%
Halifax	1.10	0.01	0.05	4.



# business & city

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## Licence review set to net ITV firms millions

Patrick Toohar

ITV companies are set to boost their profits by tens of millions of pounds a year if preliminary talks with the Independent Television Commission about the early renewal of their licences are successful. The Channel 3 companies are trying to secure reductions in the levies they give to the Treasury, with some seeking to halve their payments.

The prospect of sharply reduced licence payments for ITV companies will highlight the value of television companies in a sector where share prices have already soared on takeover speculation.

Commercial broadcasters which made high cash bids in 1991 to ensure their existing franchises were retained are likely to benefit most from the licence renegotiations. Analysts reckon that HTV, the ITV company for Wales and the west of England, could end up paying as little as £10m-£12m for its licence compared with a current annual levy of £24m. On a similar basis Yorkshire-Tyne Tees could see its total franchise payments slashed by over £30m. Other companies set to gain include United News & Media, holder of the Meridian and Anglia licences; Carlton, owner of the weekday London licence; and GMTV, the breakfast television operator.

"This will completely revalue ITV companies," said a senior industry source familiar with the talks.

The Government receives

£400m a year in payments from the 15 regional ITV franchises and shareholders in GMTV. But under ITC rules the lower levies could kick in as early as the start of 1999 – four years before the current 10-year licences expire – and run until 2009.

Companies like Scottish Television and Carlton-owned Central, which bid just £2,000 to retain their existing franchises back in 1991, are expected to wait until 2003 before seeking to renew their licences with the ITC.

"Senior staff are looking at this issue," an ITC spokesman said. "No business plans have been submitted yet but we would expect to see some before the end of this year."

The ITC has the power to re-advertise licences to outside bidders if no deal on renewal payments is reached with existing ITV franchise holders.

In practice, though, compromise is in the air. "It is in everybody's interest to reach an agreement," said the industry source. "We fully expect a significant licence reduction, it is just a question of what level."

Those sentiments have been echoed by recent statements from the top brass within the ITC. Sir Peter Rogers, its chief executive, told MPs last month that he expected the level of payments to come down when the licences were renewed. Sir George Russell, the ITC chairman, is on record as saying the cash bids ITV stations made in the discredited auction six years ago are antiquated and should be scrapped.

Growing pressure to cut the amount of ITV money going to the Treasury reflects the significant competitive changes that have occurred in television since the contracts were awarded in 1991.

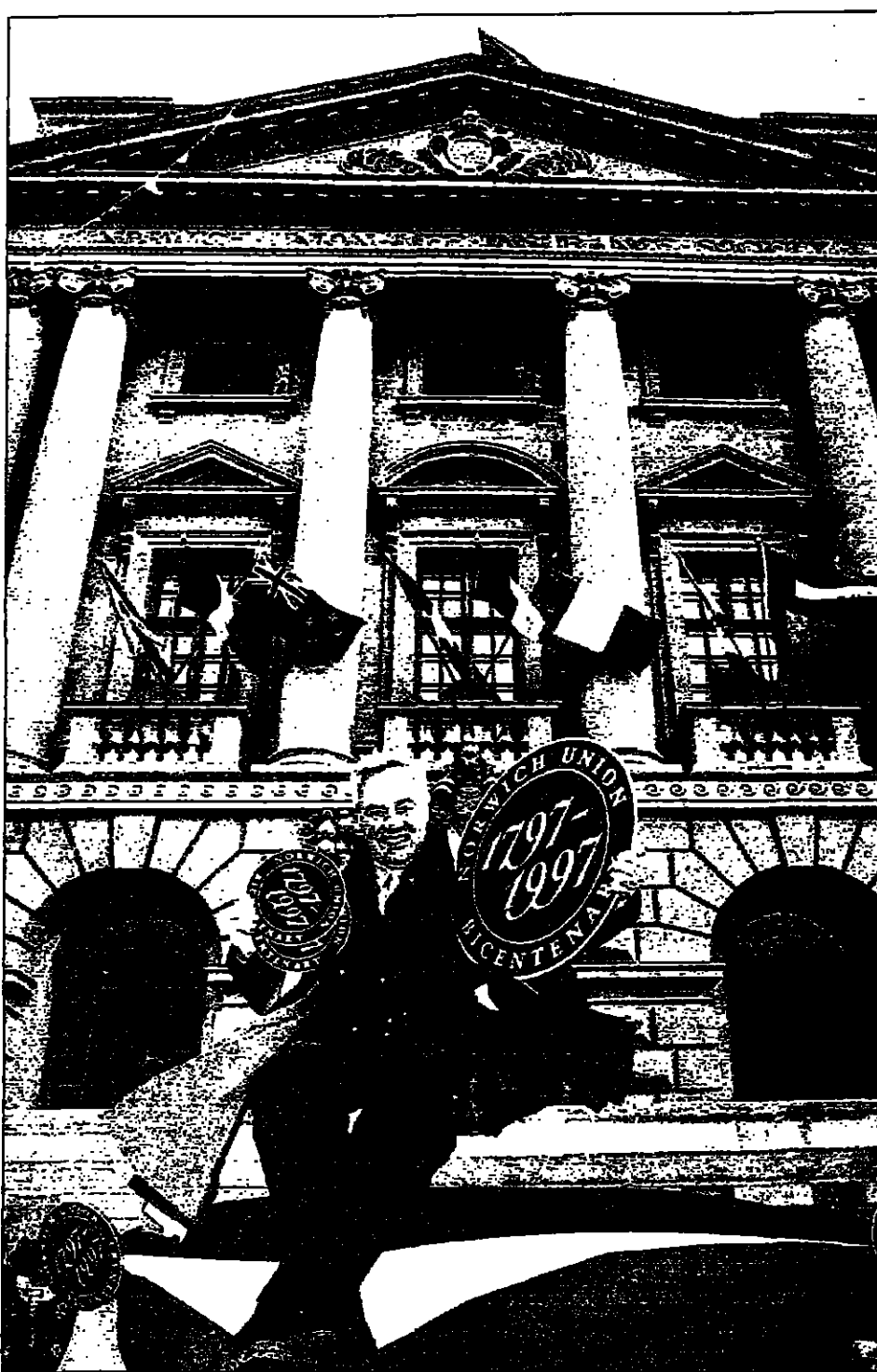
In particular, the ITC will take account of the phenomenal growth of satellite and cable channels, as well as the phasing out of the Channel 4 levy, the imminent launch of Channel 5, and, by the end of this year, 200-channel digital television.

Both HTV and Yorkshire are prime takeover candidates. Lord Hollick's United News & Media sits on a 29.9 per cent stake in HTV – the maximum allowed without triggering a full bid – while Granada has 27 per cent of Yorkshire and has made no secret of its desire to acquire its neighbour across the Pennines.

The problem for potential bidders is estimating how much their target's licence is worth if annual levies are slashed. Bidders could end up having to pay a lot more than they originally planned, sources suggest.

The soaring value of ITV licences contrasts sharply with the situation in 1991 when HTV was forced to bid £20.5m to retain its franchise against three rivals and some analysts thought it would struggle to survive.

Instead, the shares have been one of the best performers on the stock market, rising from a low of 14p in 1992 to Friday's closing price of 361.5p. It will today announce a production alliance with Warner Brothers.



Put the flags out: Allan Bridgewater, chief executive of Norwich Union, was yesterday helping to decorate the insurer's head office in Norwich, for the start of its 200th anniversary celebrations. Norwich Union started business in 1797.

## Bank warns on City stars' big bonuses

Tom Stevenson  
City Editor

The Bank of England is growing increasingly concerned about the potentially destabilising effect of the City's highest earning stars on the financial institutions that employ them.

Even before last Friday's announcement of a £50m hole in NatWest Markets' options trading book, the Bank had become especially worried about the role big bonuses play in the risks traders are prepared to take with their employers' capital.

The publication by the Bank today of a report on "Remuneration and Risk" coincides with speculation that Kyriacos Papous, the junior trader understood to be responsible for NatWest's catastrophic derivatives pricing error, is to be suspended by his current employer Bear Stearns, pending the completion of NatWest's internal inquiry into the affair. Mr Papous left NatWest last December for the American bank, which yesterday refused to comment.

According to the Bank of England: "Remuneration policy has a broader role as a management tool. The amount someone is paid provides powerful signals to other employees about what is regarded as desirable behaviour. If large bonuses are paid to employees who make money but are perceived to have a cavalier approach to compliance, it is likely to encourage similar behaviour in others."

The report highlighted the need for effective controls on traders, only days after NatWest said it had suspended the manager responsible for Mr Papous's trading activities. It

warned that the potential imbalance between the risks and rewards that were considered acceptable by firms and by their employees could put any system of checks and balances under strain.

"Effective controls on risk-taking and measures to ensure the honesty of employees are essential, no matter how the bonus scheme is designed. But a remuneration scheme which gives perverse rewards to risk-taking behaviour may put the control system under great stress," said Daniel Davies, the report's author.

The announcement that a "mispricing error" in its interest rate option book would hit half-year figures to the tune of £50m, came just three days after NatWest had announced figures for the year to last December and assured investors that its derivatives trading operation was tightly controlled. Concerns have been expressed about the risks being taken by relatively staid high street banking groups as they encroached on the more flamboyant trading areas of investment banks.

The emergence of problems at NatWest, so soon after fiascos at Barings and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, came in the same week as a damning indictment of the City's "star" system and the bonuses that fuel it by Donald Gordon, chairman of Liberty International.

He said: "One unattractive feature of the rise in the dominance of financial markets has been a massive surge in over-incentivisation of personnel within the investment banking and capital market sectors leading to an excessively materialistic culture in big financial markets."

## Absenteeism costs industry £13bn a year

Roger Trapp

Low morale, boredom and stress are behind an alarming rise in absenteeism, which is now costing British industry a massive £13bn a year in wasted salary bills alone. Taking into account the hidden costs of lower productivity and loss of customers, the hit to business is even higher, according to the Industrial Society.

Public sector and voluntary organisations have seen absence rates rise 25 per cent since the last Industrial Society survey in 1994, suggesting workers are taking on average one day in 20 as sick leave.

The organisation's latest research into the problem published today arrives at its £13bn figure by assuming that the average employee is paid just over £70 a day and is absent for 8.26 days a year. Accordingly, it covers just wasted salary bills and does not include falls in productivity, the cost of employing temporary staff, overtime bills, damage to the morale of colleagues and loss of customers.

The survey of personnel and human resources managers at 327 businesses and other organisations also reveals what the society calls a "strong discrepancy" between what employees say is the reason for their absence and what managers think is the true cause. Low morale, boredom and the "Monday morning blues" are among the hidden problems,

and the society notes that managers may be behind many of them.

About 46 per cent of employers are not measuring the cost of absenteeism, and even some of those who are trying to do something about it do not seem to be going about it in the right way. Organisations with attendance bonuses have higher absence rates, particularly if they employ manual staff.

By contrast, employers who accommodate working from home, flexible hours and flexible annual leave enjoy lower-than-average absence rates.

Tony Morgan, chief executive of the Industrial Society, said the scale of the hidden costs were taken into account. "Organisations should be monitoring absence rates carefully, identifying the true costs and causes, and looking for solutions. Employees need to know that absence is taken seriously and that employers want to help."

He added that managers should be trying to create a culture of trust at work so that such matters as stress and family responsibilities could be discussed openly.

He also called for greater use of flexible working practices as a way of combating the problem. "With the growing number of women in the workforce, and our ageing population, the issue of caring responsibilities can only grow in importance."

## Centrica's woes are a money-spinner for Vodafone

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

One of the many unexpected misfortunes suffered last year by the old British Gas has turned into a huge money-spinning opportunity for Vodafone, the UK's largest mobile phone operator. It has emerged.

Plans to improve productivity from British Gas's 6,000 engineers who spend their time installing and servicing central heating boilers had to

be put on hold as new communications technology failed to materialise on time.

Centrica, the gas supply business split off from British Gas in last month's landmark demerger, aimed to reduce staff numbers by equipping each engineer with a sophisticated lap-top computer complete with CD-Rom technology. Employees would log each completed job on their screen and send the information back to base using

in-cab radio links, ending the time-consuming and expensive process of returning to base after each appointment to record the work on paper over a cup of coffee.

As customers subscribing to the "three-star" service contract will testify, the computers arrived on time. The radio technology, on the other hand, did not. Staff could not impressively type each job on their lap-top, but had no way of sending it back to base. To

make matters worse, employees who had applied to take up British Gas's offer of voluntary redundancy had to be kept on to plug the gap.

By the autumn the problem had become so serious that Centrica took drastic action. It abandoned the idea of using beefed-up radio technology and placed an order with Vodafone for no less than 7,000 mobile telephones. Vodafone claimed yesterday that it was its biggest data com-

munications order. A spokeswoman declined to put a figure on the deal, though it is thought to last for three years and depends partly on the number of calls made. The annual subscription enabling the 6,000 engineers to use the network is thought to be more than £5m. Panasonic, the Japanese electronics giant, supplied the digital handsets.

Last week Roy Gardner, Centrica's chief executive, talked darkly of his frustration

at last year's delays, which cost the company millions in lost efficiency gains, but pointed out that the productivity boost would come through sharply this year. The difficulties helped push the service business into losses of £196m for 1996, only slightly down from the £217m loss in 1995. Mr Gardner insisted his target of bringing the service division into profit by the end of next year still stood, despite the unexpected technology hiccup.

## Energis may link with cable firms to reach new customers

Chris Godsmark

Energis, the telecommunications business owned by National Grid, is considering radical plans to form alliances with UK cable companies to give the network better access to local business customers.

The move, which could cost up to £50m in additional investment, is thought to be a clue to Energis's long-term strategy following last year's persistent speculation that the Grid, under chief executive David Jones, was looking to sell a substantial stake in the business, which runs fibre-optic phone wires along electricity cables.

Energis has so far invested £550m in building a 4,500km national fibre-optic trunk network, which includes running phone wires along London tube tunnels. However, Mike Grabiner, Energis's chief executive, poached last year from



David Jones: Wants better access to business

British Telecom, has become increasingly frustrated at access charges it has to pay to use BT's local phone network. Out of likely revenues this year of £100m, more than 40 per cent goes directly to British Telecom, which still controls more than 90 per cent of phone lines.

Energis has already complained about the organisation of the UK's local phone network to regulators in the US and the European Commission, which are investigating BT's planned £13bn merger with US long-distance giant MCI.

The US watchdog, the Federal Communications Commission, has said it will only give the BT-MCI deal the go-ahead if the two companies can prove the UK market is as open as in the US.

Mr Grabiner declined to specify which cable operators would take part in partnerships, but said discussions were going on with most companies. "We haven't ruled anything out or walked away from anything."

He said that the deals would be "deeper" than conventional partnerships and would overcome regulatory rules which prevent cable companies selling capacity on their local networks

### IN BRIEF

• Germany and Austria reiterated their determination to stick to the Maastricht criteria for European economic and monetary union (EMU) yesterday. Speculation that Germany was likely to seek a delay of the project because it might not meet all the entry criteria deeply unsettled world financial markets on Friday. The rumours were denied both by the Bundesbank and the German finance ministry.

• Dixons has promoted three of its senior managers to its board with effect from the start of its next financial year in May. Sir Stanley Kalms, chairman, said the appointments reflected the growth of the business and its focus on UK retail activities. The three are: David Gilbert, managing director of Currys; David Hamid, managing director of Dixons Group Commercial Services, who controls the groups after sales, distribution and marketing support services; and Ian Livingston, finance and systems director.

• Banks are less likely to lend to companies with a poor environmental record as more sophisticated credit risk-assessment highlights the different ways in which environmental factors can affect a borrower's ability to repay a loan. According to a survey by the Green Alliance, a lobby organisation devoted to ensuring that green issues are a prime consideration in all decision-making, banks still have much to do to improve their environmental credentials.

• The majority of owner-managed businesses in Europe believe there is still some way to go before the promised benefits of the European single market are realised. According to a survey published today by accountants Grant Thornton, more than 60 per cent of respondents claimed the single market had not reduced their costs in any way. Almost two-thirds said expanding their business had not become any easier. A similar proportion said there had been no reduction in red tape.

• British business is turning against a single currency according to a survey to be published today by 3i, the venture capital group. Despite more than 80 per cent of the companies surveyed being exporters, with Europe the big market, opinion has shifted sharply in the past year away from a single European currency, from an even split last year to 10 per cent more respondents now being in opposition than in favour. The survey also showed a strong majority against the Social Chapter. However, 80 per cent thought the introduction of a statutory minimum wage at £4 an hour would have no effect on their business.

• Guinness Mahon and Hambros have agreed in principle to merge Hambros Fund Management with Guinness Flight to create Guinness Flight Hambros Asset Management. The retail funds of the combined business will trade under the Guinness Flight name. The companies said that a merger would provide the new business with greater financial strength, an enhanced product range and investment competence in managed currency funds, Asian equity funds and cash and fixed interest management. Following the merger, management will hold 15 per cent of the enlarged group's shares.

• Sir Rocco Forte has re-entered the hotel business with the purchase of the 186-bedroom Balmoral Hotel in Edinburgh from the Bank of Scotland. The Balmoral is the first hotel to be operated by a management company set up by Sir Rocco after the takeover of Forte by Granada at the beginning of last year.

STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100									
Index	Close	Week's chg	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Trend (%)			
FTSE 100	4308.30	+28.5	+0.7	4357.40	3632.30	3.68			
FTSE 250	4654.40	+24.4	+0.5	4685.00	4015.30	3.38			
FTSE 350	2134.00	+8.8	+0.4	2150.60	1816.60	3.62			
FTSE Smallcap	2363.90	+6.3	+0.3	2386.22	1954.06	2.90			
FTSE All-Share	2107.86	+7.6	+0.4	2122.75	1731.95	3.95			
New York	5800.44	-31.2	-0.4	7087.48	5032.84	1.94			
Tokyo	16557.00	-477.5	-2.5	22856.00	17303.65	0.861			
Hong Kong	13388.72	-46.1	-0.3	13858.24	10344.87	3.151			
Frankfurt	3259.84	+75.6	+2.4	3276.72	2253.36	1.501			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
<b>UK interest rates</b> Benchmark yield curve 0-25 year yield (%) 					<b>US interest rates</b> Benchmark yield curve 0-30 year bond (%) 				
10 years: 90 market correlation <span style="float: right;">Source: Merrill Lynch</span>									
<b>Money Market Rates</b> Index      1 Month      1 Year      Bond Yields * 									





GAVYN DAVIES

The overwhelming public impression of the panel of "wise persons" was formed during the unseemly dog-fights which some members indulged in during its early days, and it was hard to shake off this image.

## We need this shake-up in the corridors of power

Gordon Brown announced last Wednesday that there would be a big shake-up in the economic advisory functions in both the Treasury and the Bank of England if Labour wins the election. Although the overwhelming response from independent economists has been that his plans amount to nothing more significant than a re-arranging of government furniture, this could prove too cynical. One of the prime objectives of the Brown proposals is to depersonalise economic decision-making, while also making both of our most venerable economic institutions much more open to outside influence.

This is a perfectly sensible objective - after all, one of the most potent criticisms of both Whitehall and the Bank in the past has been that the atmosphere in the corridors of power has been more a touch inbred. This is much less true now than it was a decade or two ago (mainly because so many middle-ranking economists have left the Treasury and Bank to work in the City), but it is still a relevant complaint. More two-way traffic between the inside and the outside world would undoubtedly be a good thing for all concerned.

The Brown plan for the Treasury is to replace the existing Panel of Independent Forecasts with a new Council of Economic Advisers. The Shadow Chancellor believes that the panel of "wise persons" has run its course, and he says they have not been used

properly as a source of advice for the Chancellor and have been left to disagree in public. In place of the panel, the new council will draw on a wider range of economic expertise, and will be asked to give advice on monetary policy, to present a pre-Budget briefing report, and to advise on other (presumably micro-economic) areas where the Treasury has a direct interest.

Writing as one of the two members of the panel which has survived its entire life (Tim Congdon is the other), I suppose I should feel duty-bound to defend the institution, and indeed I think that it did some useful work. For example, it was a factor in pushing both the Chancellors of 1993 towards the two-stage fiscal tightening that was crucial at that time, and its reports made it a fraction harder to undo this fiscal tightening in the run-up to the 1997 election. There were also good and thoughtful reports on the output gap and on European monetary union, among others.

But it is hard to deny that the overwhelming public impression of the panel was formed during the unseemly dog-fights which some members indulged in during its early days, and it was hard to shake off this image. Actually, there is a lesson here for the future. Since members of the panel spent only a tiny amount of their time on the panel's work, they never "bought into" the institution as an entity, and never felt any duty to protect its image. Instead, the incentive struc-

ture for panelists, fuelled by the predilection of our economic media for conflict (perhaps we should call it "the cut and thrust of debate"), encouraged members to gain attention by courting controversy. Being good economists, they reacted rationally to the incentives before them. They called each other names. And sometimes they resorted to calling the Chancellor names instead, which was even worse. The lesson is that either such outfits should be given something important to do, in which case they will hopefully see the need to impose discipline on themselves, or they should be told that they must give up their role in the public arena. If this limits the number of applicants for such positions in future, so be it.

Several questions have not yet been clarified about the new Council of Economic Advisers. Will it consist of full-timers within the Treasury, or part-timers outside like the old panel? Will members, or indeed the chairman, be allowed to speak in public? How will the council relate to the existing Treasury officials, especially to Alan Budd, the chief economic adviser? What precise role will the council be given so that it adds to, rather than does battle with, other Whitehall institutions like the No 10 policy unit, which Tony Blair reportedly intends to turn into a "policy powerhouse" at the heart of government?

In an earlier speech, prior to last week, Mr

Brown hinted that the Council will be particularly concerned with policy areas that might be relevant to the economy's long-term growth rate, which is a neglected area in the Treasury. The best way of doing this would be to work in private inside Whitehall, with council members being appointed to focus on this as their main job. If the council attended to the economy's supply potential, while the Budd group concerned itself with how to keep output close to that potential by managing fiscal and monetary policy, the new unit could play a useful role.

The Brown proposals also cover the reform of the Bank, where the prospect of greater independence in the setting of interest rates is dangled tantalisingly in front of the Governor if he successfully implements the new structure. According to press reports, one probable change is to divide Howard Davies's job in two, so that there would be one deputy governor for monetary policy and a second for banking supervision. Although this was not formally included in the Brown speech, it would clearly prepare for the day when the Bank might lose its regulatory function, leaving it to focus solely on the specialist task of setting monetary policy. Also with this in mind, a monetary policy committee (MPC) would be rapidly established, with three or four outside experts joining the existing staff to determine the Bank's position on monetary conditions. Finally, the Court of the

Bank would be reformed to reflect a wider range of views, including both sides of industry and the regions.

These changes could be somewhat cumbersome in the near term, and it will not necessarily be easy to get high-calibre people to sit on the MPC in the period before operational independence is granted. Since they would not have any other managerial responsibilities within the Bank, and since they would be (hopefully) gagged from public speaking, it is not entirely clear how they would fill their time. Advising the Governor on how to advise the Chancellor might be one remove too far from the levers of power, though Labour seems genuinely to intend to move to greater independence for the Bank reasonably quickly. Once this is done, the MPC would play a necessary role (at least until the UK joins EMU, when it would presumably cease to exist altogether).

But of course we cannot shelve desirable reforms just in case we join EMU one distant day. The fact is that if the Bank is to win the electorate's trust in the setting of interest rates, then it needs to become the central bank of the entire nation, and not the central bank of the City's narrow interests, as it has been for much of its history. This important change cannot be accomplished without making the reforms that Gordon Brown has proposed and which, to his credit, the Governor has readily accepted.

## Rover takes the lead in open-top revival

Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

Sales of open-top sports cars, which had all but died out just 10 years ago, are soaring to their highest levels since the glory days of the 1970s according to motor industry figures, as affluent buyers rush to spend rising disposable incomes.

Rover's decision to revive the MG concept with its new hi-tech small sports convertible, the MGR, ignited a sales explosion which relieved executives' prolonged shift in consumer

buying patterns. In 1996, its first full year on the market, Rover sold 6,180 MGRs, with waiting lists at dealers stretching from weeks into months. At one stage in 1996, second-hand MGR prices were higher than the list price of new cars.

However, the knock-on impact of the MGR launch has kick-started the whole market, leading to an surge in sales of the first of the new breed of small convertibles, the Mazda MX5, costing between £14,500 and £18,500. Introduced in 1989, the MX5's UK sales had fallen from 2,246 to only 910 by

1993. Doom-mongers in the industry warned the demand for small sports cars had been grossly overestimated.

Yet last year Mazda sold almost 4,000 MX5s, outstripping demand for what were thought to be "volume" models such as Ford's hard-top coupé, the Probe. So far in 1997 sales are even stronger, with MX5 sales in the UK outstripping the US.

Jay Nagley, an industry expert with the marketing consultancy Quadrangle, explained: "The introduction of new models like the MGR has led to a revival of

interest in existing ones like the MX5. The sports car market is notoriously fickle and the winners in the convertible market have badly hit sales elsewhere for other car makers."

Mazda said buyers tended to be either the "independent young," aged under 30, or the "independent old". Rover said buyers of the Longbridge-built MGR, which costs up to £19,500, came from all age groups with a 50-50 split between men and women.

David Heslop, managing director of Mazda Cars UK, said: "The economic recovery is

there and that clearly helps, but what we've done is to reflect rising consumer confidence by aggressive pricing. As the economy begins to lift, all kinds of new customers are saying to themselves 'why don't we take the plunge?'

However, both manufacturers insisted they were not about to flood the UK market with convertibles. "We've deliberately not raised MGR production. As long as supply and demand stay as they are then used prices will stay high and that's only what new buyers deserve," said a Rover spokesman.



Open road: Rover's revival of the MG marque has ignited a sales explosion

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## the back page

Monday 3 March 1997 the week starts here

## TUESDAY



**Tracey Emin**  
Spice girl of art



## Women's rites

**Women:** This Saturday is International Women's Day. The lead-up includes a conference for "Tomorrow's Women" on Friday at the National Film Theatre, with an impressive line-up - Jo Brand, Anita Roddick, Rosie Boycott, Imogen Stubbs and Pearson's new chief, Marjorie Scardino. 9am. Tickets £60. Box office 0171-292 6506. On Saturday a career show, "Women Mean Business" (Olympia 2), will help those seeking to emulate these high-achievers. In the evening a special show will include music, comedy, dancing and poetry with women performers, finishing the day off in celebratory style. Hackney Empire, 7.30pm. Tickets £10/£8 concessions. Box office 0181-985 2424.



Rhodes: fast foodie

## Food fest

**Food:** Gary Rhodes, Rick Stein and Antonio Carluccio will be at the BBC Food Fair from Thursday to Sunday at the Grand Hall, Olympia. They will be serving culinary treats to an expected 55,000. From £6.50 weekdays. 0990 143 014.

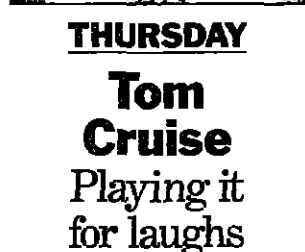
## Gate crashing

**Film (here):** Don't wait for the British Film Board's decision on David Cronenberg's controversial *Crash*. Fly to Ireland where it is one of the screenings on offer at the 12th Dublin Film Festival, which starts tomorrow. Other highlights include the world premiere of director Pat O'Connor's *Inventing the Abbot*, which stars Liv Ullmann and Joaquin Phoenix. Ryan Air offers flights to Dublin from a range of regional airports for £59 return.

**Film (here):** Tom Cruise's latest vehicle, *Jerry Maguire* opens on Friday. Cruise plays a sports agent who finds his integrity, but loses his job. Directed by Cameron Crowe (*Singles*, *Say Anything*) who turns his meticulous eye on the sporting world.

## African seen

**Dance:** A short season with leading contemporary dance companies starts on Friday at The Orchard Theatre in Dartford, Kent with Adzido, the largest African dance company in Europe. It provides an energetic interpretation of the turmoil faced by young people in South Africa. £8.50 (£5.50 concs). Box office: 01322 220000.



**Tom Cruise**  
Playing it for laughs

## WHERE TO GO, WHAT TO DO

## Albery attempt

**Theatre:** The intriguing prospect of director Tim Albery, after much surreal opera work, combining with writer Martin Crimp after his superb *Misanthrope* at the Young Vic should tempt you along to the new work, *Attempts on her life*, at the Royal Court on Friday. Why does a fanatical believer in family values spend her afternoons with strange men in cheap hotels? To 5 April. 7.45pm, matinees 15, 22, 29 March, 5 April 4pm. 0171-565 5000.

## Bishops' move

Bishops and MPs hold a conference on "How not to forget the bottom 30 per cent" at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster tomorrow. It is sponsored by a group of senior clergy and hopes to help the "economically inactive". £10. 11am-3pm.

## Hail cello

**Classical:** Cellist Julian Lloyd Webber is going to be busy in the next few weeks. He plays in the premiere of Michael Nyman's "Double Concerto for Saxophone and Cello" at the Royal Festival Hall on Saturday, with the Philharmonia Orchestra. Then he's off to the Fourth Guildford International Music Festival which starts on Thursday, finishing on 23 March. There are some top names in Guildford, among them the French pianist Cécile Ousset, making her only performance in this country this year. Tickets (Nyman) £25-25 ("very limited in stalls"). Box office 0171-960 4242. (Note: allow more time for roadworks in Belvedere Road.) Tickets (Guildford) £3-£13. Box office 01483 444334.



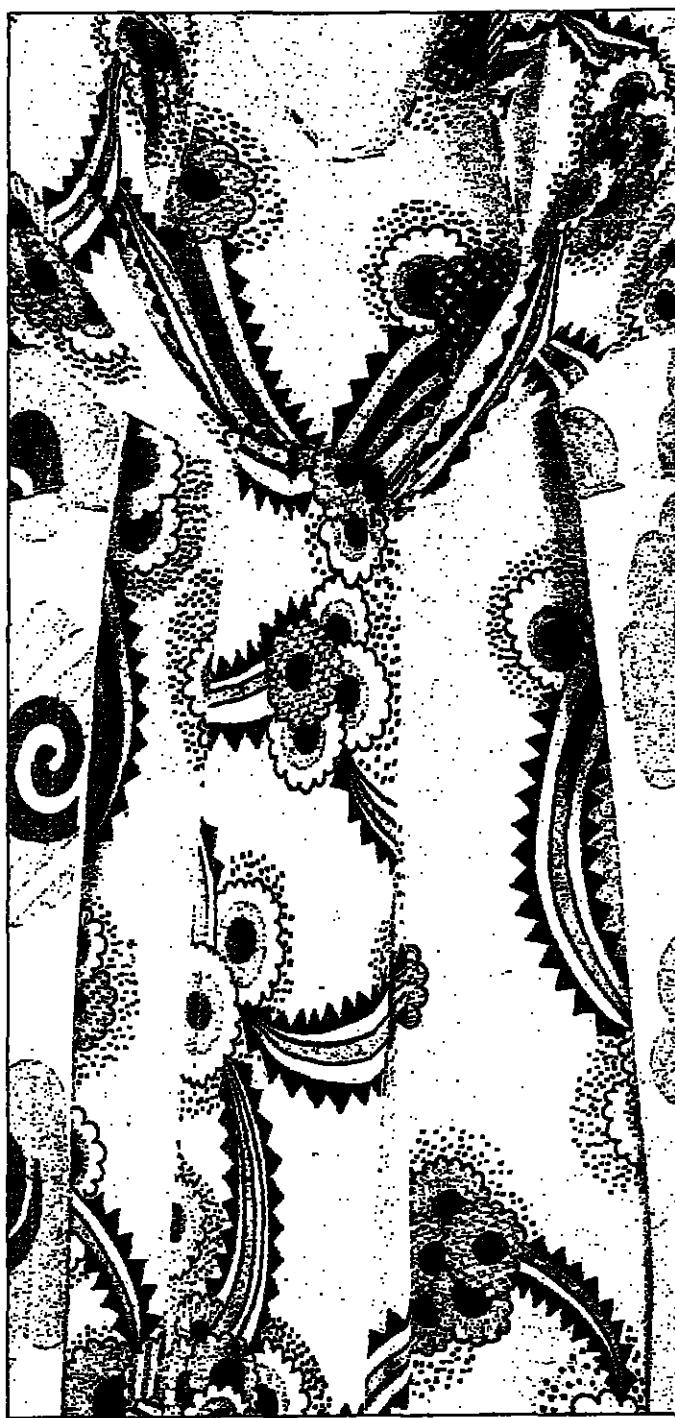
Lloyd Webber: busy

## Hill and thrill

**Sport:** It's the long-awaited start to the Grand Prix season with the first race in Melbourne, Australia. See thrills, spills and automobiles. Will the upstart Canadian Villeneuve triumph, or do we still hold out hope for our Danon Hill, even though his new car is not quite up to the one he drove last year?

## Main Chance

**Opera:** Martha Clarke's production of Gluck's *Orpheus* and Euridice opens tonight at the ENO. Counter tenor Michael Chance, possibly the world's leading interpreter of the role, plays Orpheus and the energetic Lesley Garrett, Euridice. Jane Glover conducts. Coliseum. Tickets £5-£55. Tonight and Friday, 8pm. 0171-632 8300.



## Looking back

**Fashion:** OD'ed on London Fashion Week? Gain a sense of perspective on the whole fickle, fantastic business at "The Cutting Edge - Fifty Years of British Fashion", a new exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, starting on Thursday. Exhibits of work by designers including Savile Row tailors, Sixties guru Mary Quant, bumster-king Alexander McQueen and Ossie Clark, whose 1970 coat and dress is shown above. You might even see that old ra-ra skirt. Daily 10am-5.30pm (Mon noon-5.30pm). £5 (£3 concs).

## Looking further back

**Book:** The new Keith Waterhouse novel *Good Grief*. (£16.99, Sceptre) promises another dip into contemporary life à la *Billy Liar*, but with an older cast re-evaluating, as opposed to settling out upon, life's little vagaries - marriage, life and death.

## Looking even further back

**Antiques:** The Antique and Collectors' Fair at London's Alexandra Palace on Sunday has 18th-century swag, including porcelain, jewellery, silver, books and kitchenalia. You might find a bargain if the dealers don't get there first. 11.30am-5pm. £3. 0181-365 2121.

Who decides that Saturday will be International Women's Day [see left]? Why Saturday, why women, when will there be a day for elderly hackers with no hair? Why is there no mention of Ms Nicola Horlick, who must be the Int W of the Y?

And when shall we have Unsolicited Mail Day, or was it last Friday and no one told me? On Friday I received three letters asking me to buy PEPs, two urging purchase of VTRs and one suggesting I get myself a credit card that will benefit dolphins and give me loans at advantageous APRs. Some charities wrote, one asking me to become their patron "because of your long-standing connections with east London", could they have found out about my visits to Hackney Greyhound Stadium before it was closed down? There were the usual offers of special deals in respect of clothes, wine, smoked fish, Dutch bulbs, travel, rental of villas in Tuscany and a Bupa health scan at "only" what seemed like enough money to let me live in comfort for at least another week.

My best unsolicited epistle addressed me as Dear Friend, came from Wantage in Oxon and asked me to lend my name to "Our campaign to save one of the most majestic and enchanting creatures left on earth - the unicorn."

"Once common throughout Europe, Persia and India the unicorn has been ruthlessly hunted down the ages because of the powerful magical healing properties attached to it; now mistakenly believed by many to be extinct, that is the fate that awaits the unicorn if more is not done to make the world aware that this noble beast is about to be lost for ever. It is believed that as few as 10 breeding pairs still exist in the wild today, with the last confirmed sighting over three years ago in a remote area of Northern India. Although a number of expeditions have been mounted recently, no positive identifications have been made."

I looked up unicorn in my encyclopedia: "Fabulous animal with head and body of a horse and a long sharp horn in the middle of the forehead. Its existence is testified to by Pliny, Aristotle and the Bible but it is probable it was confused with a rhinoceros." Longman's *Universal Dictionary* states: "A mythical animal..."

Before signing I SUPPORT THE SAVE THE UNICORN CAMPAIGN and printing my name in the space below the signature, I tried to contact one Carol Peterson, campaign manager, she who had called me Dear Friend. I spent the weekend ringing the head office number; there was no reply. I expect they are in Northern India in search of the hoofed perissodactyl. I do wish them every good fortune.

If your parents were called Kok and they gave you the Christian name Wim, you would, as a matter of urgency, visit the Deed Poll department at Somerset House before attempting to secure high office. Not in Holland, where Wim Kok is Prime Minister. This might cheer Robin Cook, who has everything that would make him a good and credible leader of the Labour Party except the face. He feels that he is insufficiently photogenic for No 10; surely this is something the spin doctors could put right.



## CLEMENT FREUD

My best unsolicited epistle asked me to support a campaign to save one of the most majestic creatures left on earth - the unicorn.

There was a time when one bought food, stored it and if there had been delay between purchase and intended use, one examined the item for signs of deterioration: smell, look, feel... whatever.

No more. Now people are taught to look at a self-by date and dump the goods if this is exceeded. Self-by dates are bureaucratic lunacy. Take Worcester sauce, which came about when an Anglo-Indian left the recipe for the condiment with a chemist, who made it up and discovered it unclaimed in his cellar 10 years later. It was delicious: he marketed it.

Today, Lea and Perrin's promise that the sauce has matured for three years. On the label they print: "Best before May 1998" when in truth it will be rather better after May 1998. At Christmas we bought a rich fruit cake bearing the legend: "Best before December 24".

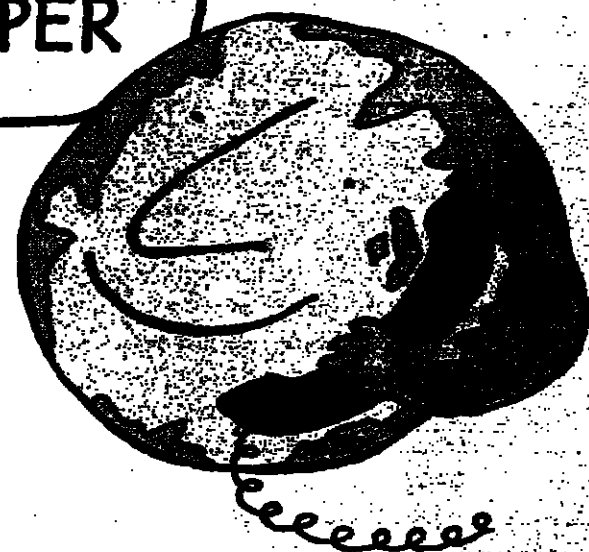
Still no reply from Save the Unicorn's number in Wantage. "When James VI came to rule over England he brought with him a unicorn from Orkney to supplant the Red Dragon of Wales and support the English shield opposite the Lion." I should be interested to join a Save the Dragon Campaign, too. At the latest count there were fewer than a dozen breeding pairs in the far reaches of Anglesey.



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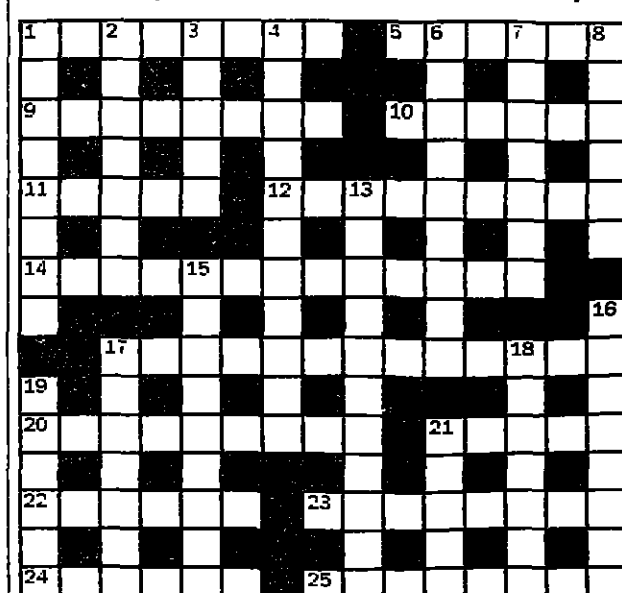
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## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3236, Monday 3 March

By Perita



## ACROSS

- 1 Money back many received for car component (8)
- 5 Bird expert's time to ring a number of duck (6)
- 9 The girls interfered with craft (8)
- 10 Several hacked woman with capital (6)
- 11 Pastoral dwelling (5)

- 12 Commercial company's undertaking cleaning job (9)
- 14 Cooked pecan tarts for eatery (9,4)
- 17 Unspeaking rudeness? (4,9)
- 20 Doctor I desire comes round - he's excellent (9)
- 21 Enable energy to find release (3,2)
- 22 In being caught by others, don't give in (6)

- 23 Originate check on key computer device (4,4)
- 24 Never changes very much (4,2)
- 25 Club's right about deal with crime writer (8)
- DOWN
- 1 Left after accountant's friendship ends in disaster (8)
- 2 Colour of vehicle academic possesses (7)
- 3 Resort in the duchy they visited (5)
- 4 Open Scottish bridge of potential importance (11)
- 6 Express post? (9)
- 7 Prisoner's only comfort (7)
- 8 Make them and thus leave (6)
- 13 Capable of mark that's satisfactory (2,2,7)
- 15 My boss is doubtful about one mutually beneficial partnership (9)
- 16 Soldiers joining old radical (8)
- 17 Sounds like humble estate (7)
- 18 Genuine buff (7)
- 19 Burden of debt (6)
- 21 Sign new member in though he's useless (5)